Israeli attack kills three in S. Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) — Two Israeli helicopter gunships Friday attacked positions of the Hizbollah movement in South Lebanon killing three people and wounding six others, Lebanese police said. They said the Cobra helicopters fired a missile at a car in the village of Yater, which adjoints Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, instantly killings its three passengers. They fired another four missiles at three houses in the same village, wounding six people, two of them seriously, police said. But they could not say if the victims were civilians or Hizbollah fighters. Thirty minutes later, rescue teams were still evacuating people from Yater which also came under automatic gun fire from nearby hills held by the Israeli army. Israel last raided South Lebanon on Tucsday when its helicopters carried out a series of attacks against Hizbollah strongholds in the region after three parachutists were killed and two wounded in a bomb attack.

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#### Hoar arrives

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AMMAN (Petra) - General Joseph Hoar, head of the U.S. Central Command, arrived here Friday leading an American decontrol for his ce John Color of Other of Color of Other legation on a several-day visit to Jordan, during which they will visit several military sites and archaeological and cultural places. He was received upon in them 77ths arrival by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai and senior Armed Forces officials as well as U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison and the U.S. military attache here.

#### Libya asks Israel for 200 visas

TEL AVIV (AP) - Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has asked for 200 visas for Muslim pilgrims so they can visit Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem, an Israeli businessman said Friday. The Tel Avivbased Yaacov Nimrodi also suggested the request had been granted, when reached by telephone about an Israel Radio report that he had received a letter from Colonel Qadhafi. Col. Qadhafi's contact with Mr. Nimrodi are the first published overtures to Israel from Libya. Mr. Nimrodi said of the report: "It's true." The matter was supposed to have been kept secret "until they (the pilgrims) arrive" in about another week, he said. The pilgrims will enter Israel via another Arab country, possibly Egypt, Mr. Nimrodi added and refused to elaborate. Mr. Nimrodi said he had reported on Libya's letter to the foreign ministry. Ministry spokesman Evyatar Manor said he had no knowledge of the matter. Libya's news agency JANA reported a week ago that the government was interested in sending 200 pilgrims to Jerusalem. It suggested this was because U.N. sanctions had rendered it difficult for them to make the annual Haj pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

#### Sudan conducts first census in 10 years

KHARTOUM (R) - Census takers were deployed throughout Sudan Friday as the country conducted its first census in 10 years. The usually bustling capital Khartoum, a city of 4.5 million people. came to a near halt on Thursday. declared a public holiday for the first day of the census. People were requested to remain in their homes the entire day Thursday to await a census taker, but some people received visits while their neighbours did not. State Radio Omdurman reported Friday that only 11,000 families in Khartoum state had actually been counted on the first day. But it said everybody in Khartoum state would be counted within eight days. Abu Bakt Waziri, a member of the High Information Committee for the census, told Reuters that everybody would be visited by census officials over the

#### next two weeks. 15 killed in air crash

KABUL (AFP) Fifteen people, including two Western journalists believed were killed Friday when 1 4 16 their helicopter crashed in the Hindu Kush Mountain range in northern Afghanistan, the head of a foreign aid organisation said. A STATE OF THE STA The military helicopter belonging to the ex-communist Israeli militia was on a routine flight to the Kayan Valley when it lost altitude and crashed into a mountain apparently due to engine failure, said John Lane, head of the British-run Halo Trust, which is running demining operations in Afghanistan. A Halo Trust rescue team reached the crash site late Friday and confirmed all passengers and crew here dead, Mr. Lane said.

#### New Niger leader sworn in

NLAMEY (AFP) - Niger's first president to be elected in a multiparty poll in its 30 years of independence, Mahamane Ousmane, was sworn in here on Friday, ending 20 years of military rule. One brief incident marred the 90-minute ceremony at a sports stadium. The 33 opposition members of the new parliament elected in February stalked off the VIP stand when Assembly Speaker Moumouni Adamou Djermakoye arrived. He belongs to the new ruling nine-party coalition Alliance of Democratic Forces, whose 49 deputies chose him as speaker Monday after the opposition assemblymen had left the chamber.

# Palestinians want peace talks delayed

Crisis over Dec. 17 expulsions unresolved, Palestinians say as Damascus meeting opens

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Palestinians said Friday they wanted a delay in the resumption of Middle East peace talks because a crisis over Israel's expulsion of 415 of their people had still not been solved.

Palestinian leaders in Damascns and Washington announced their demand as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt began a meeting in Damascus to decide whether Arabs should attend the talks in Washington on April 20.

Yasser Abed-Rabbo, leader of one of three PLO factions directing the Palestinian negotiators, told reporters in Damascus:

"We are considering the postponement of the talks for a short period until the issues which were not solved yet are solved."

"We did not say we are leaving the peace process. We are not quitting," he added. "All we are saying is let us postpone for a short period of time, we insist a short period of time, in order to reach a compromise."

The peace talks were suspended last December after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians it accused of supporting violent Íslamic groups.

Syria is likely to have a strong influence on the outcome of the meeting and the leader of its peace negotiators sounded somewhat sympathetic to the Palestinian point of view.

"We hope that enough influence would be exerted by the

Americans, because they are close to the Israelis, to remove all the obstacles which are preventing so far any progress of the peace talks," Mouwafak Al Allaf told Reuters.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the biggest outstanding problems were Israel's failure to agree an early enough target date for the return of the December expellees and its refusal to allow home a large enough number of other Palestinians expelled since 1967.

He added that Israel's twoweek-old closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which has caused serious hardship by stopping 100,000 Palestinians crossing to work in Israel, had added a further obstacle.

In Washington, Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation said the Palestinians want the opening session delayed because of the worsened conditions in the occupied territories and Israel's refusal to end expulsions without trials. "If we don't show up. Arabs

cannot show up," Dr. Ashrawi said, while reaffirming Palestinian support for the peace process that began in October 1991 in Madrid.

"We have not been able to remove all the obstacles," she said in a press conference. We have been trying very hard to

solve outstanding issues. We have received promises... but no effective measures have been taken.

The spokeswoman said the Palestinians asked for the delay because of a rapid deterioration in the occupied territories.

"The peace process cannot be isolated from the context of the conditions in the occupied territories," she said. "The deterioration on the ground has led to a serious undermining of the peace process."

A State Department source said that there would be no immediate U.S. reaction. "We are not reacting to every

declaration made by Palestinians on this subject," the source said. Dr. Ashrawi also cited Israel's refusal to end expulsion of

Palestinians as a reason for the delay and urged Israel to end the practice. Palestinians had earlier signalled their unwillingness to hold

talks as long as Israel refused to re-admit the nearly 400 Palestinians stranded in Lebanon. A U.S. official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said the United States was urging

the Palestinians to participate. "Too much time has already been lost since the last round in December," he said. "It is our firmy conviction that the needs and concerns of all the parties.

(Continued on page 5)



An Orthodox Christian from the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah tries to break through an

Israeli army roadblock to reach Jerusalem for Good Friday prayers (AFP photo)

# Israel prevents Christians from Good Friday prayer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Soldiers tear-gassed and roughed up Christians protesting at roadblocks south and north of Jerusalem in a bid to reach the Holy City to pray on Orthodox Good Friday, correspondents said.

The army has sealed off the occupied territories since the end of March preventing Palestinians entering the Holy City for tradi-tional Easter ceremonies as well as Friday prayers.

About 80 people gathered at the army roadblock outside Beth-

lehem carrying placards stating "Jerusalem is our capital." Soldiers dispersed them with teargas, hit several journalists, arresting one, smashing three cameras, correspondent said.

Seventy Muslims and Christians also protested at the roadblock on the main road into the West Bank from the north of Jerusalem, where scuffles broke

Women prayed together at the roadside after being refused en-

The Orthodox Church, which celebrates Easter this week. seven days later than the Catholic and Protestant churches, went to the supreme court to try to win the right to enter Jerusalem to day.

But afer a mixup by the lawyers representing the church the court will make a ruling on Sunday, too late for services on Good Friday

and Saturday. Bishop Timotheos of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate told AFP: "We had hoped the Israeli authorities would respect their pledge to let pilgrims

through.
"If this has not been the case I will be very disappointed," he More than 35,000 Green

Orthodox live on the West Bank, concentrated in and around Bethlehem, Ramallah and East Jeru-

The bishop said about 10,000 Green Orthodox pilgrims had come to the Holy City from abroad for Easter, about the same number as last year.

The Israeli army has arrested 474 Palestinians - 43 of them allegedly wanted activists - since sealing off the occupied territories to halt a wave of violence at the end of March, military sources said Friday.

Troops continued search operations in the Gaza Strip, imposing a curfew on the Khan Yunes refugee camp and a district of Gaza City, the sources said. Seventeen Palestinians were shot and wounded on the strip Thurs-

(Continued on page 5)

## Expellees on 'death march

# MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) - Nearly 400 Palesti-

nian expellees marched to within 50 metres of Israeli army lines Friday, and one of the marchers was injured when a shell crashed nearby. Their self-proclaimed "death

march" was planned to protest the possibility that the Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks will accept a U.S. invitation and resume talks in Washington

An Israeli army spokesman de-nied that any shells were fired in the direction of the march. But reporters on both ends of the march said they saw Israeli gunners and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen repeatedly unleashing their howit-

Shortly after midday (0900 GMT), the exiles reached to within 50 metres from a tall earth mound behind which Israeli troops were barricaded at their forward-most line in South Leba-

After a lunch break, they resumed the march at 4:25 p.m. (1325 GMT). As they began, a shell crashed on a rock about 40 metres from the marchers. Sheikh Fathi Karawi, 35, 2

mosque preacher from the West Bank town of Tulkarem, was

(Continued on page 5)

# A wounded Palestinian boy holds his shoulder soldiers during clashes in the Shati refugee camp

# Bomb kills 2 Arabs, injures 8 Israeli soldiers in W.Bank OCCUPIED JERUSALEM damentalist group Hamas deton-

(Agencies) — Two Palestinians were killed and eight Israeli soldiers lightly wounded when a carbomb exploded Friday at an Israeli roadside cafe in the occupied West Bank.

Security sources said a Palestinian drove a pick-up truck apparently filled with cooking gas canisters between two nearly empty buses at the rest stop which is popular with soldiers.

It exploded shortly after, killing him, they said. One Palestinian worker at the cafe was killed and another injured, the army commander of the area told re-

Most passengers had already got off the buses, one of which was carrying civilians and the

A caller to an international news agency said the Qassam military wing of the Islamic fun-

attack for hours afterwards. Soldiers blocked reporters from reaching the site at a roadblock about 100 metres away, apparent-

the site of the 1 p.m. (1000 GMT)

ated a booby-trapped car. The

caller said one man carried out

Clouds of smoke billowed over

ly while the bodies were being taken away. But they could see the buses' windows and doors blown out, as well as a fender ripped off by the bomb.

the attack.

The injured here taken to Afula hospital.

It was the first major attack on Israelis since the army sealed off the occupied territories at the end of March in a bid to halt a wave of violence which left 15 Israelis and 25 Palestinians dead.

No Israelis have died since the closure although there have been

fired by Palestinians. "It was a car that arrived sud-

denly," said Motti Gross, operator of the cafe near the Jewish settlement of Mehola in the Jordan Valley, 80 kilometres north of Jerusalem. Bullets left on the soldiers' bus

crackled in the fire which followed the blast and flew through the air, witnesses said. Car-bomb attacks on Israelis

have been rare in the uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sealed the Gaza Strip 19 days ago and the West Bank 17 days ago. Hamas claimed responsibility for several of the attack which prompted the closure.

Qassam has emerged as one of Israel's bloodiest foes in the occupied territories. It killed five Israeli soldiers in December.

ZAGREB (AFP) - Serbian forces agreed Friday to let U.N. troops into the besieged Muslim enclave of Srebrenica Saturday morning, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said as the town was reported close to falling to Serb attackers

U.N. troops

Srebrenica

to enter

The accord was reached in talks between the head of U.N. peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia. General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Bosnian-Serb leader Radovan Karadac, the U.N. said in a statement.

Gen. Wahleren has ordered a company of Canadian troops to the Muslim-held city of Tuzla north of Srebrenica to prepare to head into the enclave Saturday. Gen. Wahlgren himself is to go to Sarajevo Saturday to try to arrange a meeting between Mr. Karadzie and Bosnian Muslim

military leaders. The statement noted that previous U.N. efforts to deploy peacekeeping forces in Srebrenica had been rejected by the Serbs. The Muslim authorities of the

enclave had also made such a deployment a condition for their agreeing to a ceasefire around the town, it added In Belgrade, the Tanjug news

agency quoted Bosnian Serb military sources as saying the fall of Srebrenica was "imminent" after a year-long Serbian siege

(see page 8).
The White House said Friday the U.S. would demand tougher sanctions immediately against the former Yugoslavia if Srebrenica

"All bets are off" if the town falls, said White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos. There will be a price for continued aggression. At the United Nations, the

(Continued on page 5)

# Clinton lauds Jordan's efforts to democratise

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Bill Clinton praised Jordan's "commitment to the East." broadening of political participation" in Jordan in the face of "great difficulties."

Mr. Clinton spoke about this commitment during an April 14 ceremony at the White House, at which Jordan's newly appointed ambassador to the United States, Fayez A. Tarawneh, presented his credentials.

Ambassador Tarawneh pledged that Jordan's "fullfledged participation... in both the bilateral and the multilateral peace negotiations" would con-

Following is the text of President Clinton's remarks: Mr. Ambassador: "It gives me great pleasure to

welcome you and your family formally to the United States and to Washington, and to accept your letter of credence and the letter of recall of your predecessor. I hope that your appointment will contienue the renewal of the traditionally close relations between our countries.

"The United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

tinue in the search for "the noble cause of peace in the Middle East." share a long history of cordial and cooperative relations. We have worked closely together for many years to bring peace to the Mid-dle East; the individual and insti-

> both societies. "We have been impressed by your government's commitment to the broadening of political participation in your country and the ongoing liberalisation of Jordanian society. Your progress has been even more noteworthy considering the great difficulties facing Jordan, and the desire of

some to use the very instruments

of democratisation to gain and keep power only for themselves. "I know, however, that democratisation is important to His Majesty King Hussein I, and all tutional ties between Americans Jordanians of good will. We want and Jordanians have enriched you to know that the United

> strengthen our bilateral relationship. We must also work together to advance the peace process which we began in Madrid.

States supports your efforts to

broaden political participation in

Jordan. Your continued commit-

ment to this course of action will

(Continued on page 5)

#### Future of CIS depends on referendum — Kravchuk

relations."

MINSK (Agencies) — The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) could dissolve if Russian President Boris-Yeltsin loses the April 25 referendum on his reform programme, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said Friday.

ance on the path of reform undertaken by Boris Yeltsin... the CIS will continue to exist," he said after a meeting of the 10 CIS

"If Russia continues to adv-

"If not, it will cease to exist because the most powerful forces in Russia do not want the CIS. they want to have the Soviet Union back."

Mr. Kravchuk was speaking after the CIS leaders met behind closed doors here Friday, with the future of the shaky alliance said to be at the top of the agenda. Kazakhstan President Nursul-

tan Nazarbayev had said before the meeting that those who did not want to continue in the grouping should leave it. "It is necessary to adopt a final

decision on who is ready to integrate... and help those who do not intend to participate in the Commonwealth to leave it without problems," Nazarbayev said on arrival, cited by Itar-TASS. An Initial three-and-a-balf hour meeting has due to be fol-lowed by debates within the CIS administration, which has its headquarters here in the Belarus capital.

Mr. Yeltsin denied that there of the summit — nine days before responding.

a key referendum on April 25 on his political future.
"There is no deliberate link. We were looking for an opportunity for all the presidents to meet," he said. 'We need to talk to each other about perfecting the CIS. We have a common interest

In Moscow, a hostile audience of state factory directors jeered Mr. Yeltsin on Friday, and his vice president called for an investigation of corruption in the administration.

in continuing to integrate our

The developments, which received extensive television coverage, put Mr. Yeltsin on the defensive as he campaigned for support in the April 25 referendum.

Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, a former ally who has become a harsh Yeltsin critic, said the president's reforms were impoverishing honest Russians and causing a surge in crime and corruption.

In a defiant speech to Russian lawmakers, Mr. Rutskoi also vowed not to resign, despite Yeltsin's decision Thursday to strip much of the vice-president's authority and privileges, including his personal physician and Mercedes. The Supreme Soviet legislature

ordered Mr. Rutskoi's 80-minute address to be carried live on national television, preempting all scheduled programmes. At the same time, the lawmakers barred a Yeltsin ally, Deputy Prime was any significance in the timing Minister Anatoly Chubais, from

# Kurdish rebels extend ceasefire with Turkey

BAR ELIAS, Lebanon (Agencies) — The head of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) Friday announced the extension of its month-long unilateral ceasefire with Turkish troops. PKK leader Abdallah Ocalan

that his Kurdish separatist move-

ment would extend the ceasefire until further notice. The ceasefire declared by the PKK last month expired Thursday. Mr. Ocalan spoke in a Syriancontrolled area of Lebanon, where a PKK base was closed last year following talks between

Syria and Turkey. At his side was Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader Jalal Talabani, who represents Iraqi Kurdish rebels. Mr. Ocalan also called for "the Turkish government to open a public discussion on the rights of

Kurds in a federal framework." Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel responded to the request Friday by saying that Turkey's sovereignty was not open to negotiation.

"The Turkish republic has been subject to aggression and its mission is to protect its people, its territory and its frontiers," Mr. Demirel said. He added that Turkey was not

willing to negotiate with any of its aggressors and that it was ready to respond to any attacks that

threatened the country.

Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin echoed Mr. Demirel's remarks adding that he did not take seriously any statements made by

Turkish forces have ignored the unilateral ceasefire called by the Kurds and have continued their operations against Kurdish rebels killing at least 50 PKK members since March 20. said at a press conference here Turkish helicopters and fighter

> about 80 kilometres southwest of Mount Ararat, the Turkish daily Hurriyet reported Friday. "I am extending the previous ceasefire until further notice." Mr. Ocalan said. "We shall begin a new ceasefire today to give the

jets on Thursday bombarded Kurdish rebel positions in the

mountainous region of Tendurek.

issue of federalism a chance." He declared: "We're not trying to separate from Turkey, we want to open the way for peace and friendship."

But he stressed that the Turkish army should reciprocate, because "no ceasefire can possibly hold if it's only from one side." Mr. Ocalan warned that his estimated 10,000 guerrillas would

retaliate if attacked, saying "selfdefence is a sacred right." He demanded the release of the estimated 3,000 to 4,000 PKK guerillas imprisoned in Turkey and called for a "general amnesty

for our political prisoners." Mr. Ocalan urged Ankara to "recognise the Kurdish identity and language as well as cultural and educational rights, including a free press and Kurdishlanguage radio and television sta-

(Continued on page 5)

# 'Suspect held' in Kuwaiti atrocity case, but family of victims seeks 'real justice'

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The family of two Lebanese men who were killed and a woman who was raped and shot in the head by a Kuwaiti believed to be a security officer immediately after the liberation of Kuwait in early 1991 is calling on the United States government to ensure that "real justice" is carried out in the case.

Naim Farhat, a Lebanese-born naturalised American citizen living in Santa Cruz. California, has written to the U.S. ambassador in Kuwait saying he had reliable information to believe that a suspect detained in Kuwait was the real culprit in the case involving his father, brother and sister, but voiced fears that Kuwaiti authorities could make a charade of the entire

Mr. Farhat, whose father Ismail and brother Osama were shot dead and sister Naimat was raped but was rescued from death after being shot in the head on March 2, 1991, argues that the victimisation of his family members was ordered by the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry and, as such, "real justice" could not be expected in the case without close foreign monitoring.

"I have no faith that there is or will be any real justice as long as Kuwaiti officials are the sole investigators, prosecutors, judge and jury in our case,' Mr. Farhat wrote Ambassador Edward Gnehm.

In the letter, dated April 6 and a copy of which was available to the Jordan Timess, Mr. Farhat said that "the order to kill my family originated in the Ministry of Interior (of Kuwait), most likely by the minister himself... (who)... has made public statements on television... that the young Filipino women who had been brutally abused by the Kuwaiti elite were lying about the violence against them in order to receive higher wages..."

The case surfaced last year after Mr. Farhat vowed not to to the culprits in the affair involving his family members, who remained in Kuwait throughout the seven-mouth Iraqi occupation beginning in August 1990 but were victimised after the liberation of

the emirate in February 1991.

According to Naimat Farhat, who now lives with her brother in California after undergoing brain surgery, a Kuwaiti officer came to the family home on March 2, 1991. He brandished a gun and forced Naimat to hogtie her father and brother and then raped her. When he was finished, he shot Naimat in the head and then shot and killed

Naimat, left to bleed to death, survived her injuries but part of her body is paralysed. But she could tell the story of what happened to her on that fateful day, when the U.S. and its allies were gleefully celeb-rating the rout of Iraq. After initial denials, Kuwaiti

authorities, coming under the flare of international media attention on the case sparked by a relentless campaign launched by Naim Farhat, confirmed the victim's version of the affair. But they pleaded helplessness saying the culprit could not be identified since hundreds of such incidents took place immediately after the liberation of Kuwait.

The recently announced arrest of the suspect, according to Mr. Farhat, "was triggered by a significant jump in media

But, he added in the letter to Ambassador Gnehm, "I believe that there is a high probability that, in order to protect those in the chain of command who are associated with the assassin, a deal will be cut with the suspect to admit only to an isolated act unrelated to government orders..." Mr. Farhat is demanding

that the U.S. embassy in Kuwait closely monitor the developments in the case. The Farhat family has representatives in Kuwait to follow up on the case in addition to a lawyer retained under the recommendation of the Kuwaiti

The Farhats have given the attorney a limited mandate: To file a case in Kuwait, monitor the proceedings and report direct to Naim and Naimat Farhat as well as the U.S. embassy. The lawyer is not authorised to take any decision related to the case without consulting the Farhats, and it indeed he does so then the power of attorney will be automatically revoked.
"If Kuwaiti procedures

prove inadequate we are prepared to pursue our case under U.S. and international law, with the objective of obtaining full disclosure of all guilty parties, achieving full justice and securing appropriate reparations for the crimes against us by the Kuwaiti government," Mr. Farhat said.

Mr. Farhat has also written to the Lebanese ambassador in Kuwait requesting him to closely follow the case.

The Farhats are demanding: -The arrest, trial and punishment of all those responsible for "ordering" and executing the March 2, 1991, attacks on the Farhats;

-The release of all retirement compensation due to Ismail Farhat, the father, and the payment of all costs involved in treating Naimat Farhat and maintaining her for the rest of her life, and cash compensation consistent with international human rights crimes;

-Unrestricted and safe access to the graves of the Farhats in Kuwait and payment for the transfer of the remains to Lebanon; - A formal apology in writing

from the Kuwaiti government; - Full compliance by Kuwait with all international norms and code of conduct in human rights; and - The release of all political

prisoners in Kuwait. In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Farhat said last week he was not seeking reparations for reparations sake but wanted to 'achieve full and real justice for all those concerned and set Kuwaitis shower Bush with gifts

liberator.

The only gifts displayed to the public on television and in newsand shields.

Normally, Arabs do not announce personal gifts so details

They most elaborate gifts would be from the emir, Sheikh

The Bush visit also has cost the government a large sum — to pay for extravagant decorations in squares and boulevards and a specially furnished Boeing 727 jetliner at the disposal of the former president, his family and

studded daggers and the like.

But a frustrated newspaper col-umnist insisted he had heard ab-

KUWAIT (Agencies) - In line with Arab tradition, former President George Bush was showered with gifts as he visited Kuwait to receive the thanks of a grateful country, hailed as the emirate's

papers have been an antique Arabian door, crystal clocks, plaques

are hard to come by.

Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah and a parade of rich merchants and members of the royal family.

There has been no mention in

the media of any expensive gifts such as gold swords, diamonds-



Former U.S. President George Bush waves as as he is on the way to attend a special session of the Kuwaiti parliament accompanied by (at left foreground) Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minist ter Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah (AFF photo)

out plans to give valuable gifts to the former U.S. president, and he complained this went beyond the requirements of tradition. Gifts to men like Bush are supposed to be mere souvenirs,

gifts that have to do with the nature of life in Kuwait and its history," wrote the widely read Mohammad Mossaed Al Saleh in the mass-circulation Al Qabas. "Such symbolic gifts would

please Mr. Bush and the delegation accompanying him. But what we hear about the gifts in store for Bush seem to transcend this

concept. The value accorded to these gifts rests on high price." One gift that has been displayed is the arabesque door, bordered on two sides with the inscribed names of "American martyrs" - soldiers killed in the course of the U.S.-led Operations Desert Storm that ousted Iraqi forces from the emirate.

Other gifts were more outland-

One merchant donated 96 bottles of imported perfume, asking that it be sprayed along the route of Mr. Bush's motorcade. A

Kuwaiti bedonin offered a prize racing camel and a businessman volunteered to pay for shipping the beast to the United States.

One touching gift came from the wife of a former prisoner of war - a key chain and a string of worry beads her husband made in

captivity.
U.S. officials and members of the Bush entourage have no discussed the gifts. Had he still been president, Mr. Bush would have been barred from accepting anything more than token presents under federal law.

#### Closure hurts Israelis and **Palestinians** – expert

WASHINGTON (USIA) - The. closure of the West Bank and Gaza by the Israeli government is hurting both the Palestinian and Israeli economies, an expert on Israeli labour practices says.

The economic pressures brought on by the closure and loss of Palestinian workers inside Israel will soon lead to a reopening of the borders, said Amira Hass, an Israeli journalist and volunteer for Workers' Hotline, a non-profit Israeli organisation dedicated to the protection of workers' rights.

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the end of March after a series of Palestinian attacks against Israelis. Ms. Hass reviewed the current situation during an April 14 briefing sponsored by the Centre for Policy

Analysis on Palestine. "As a whole the Israeli econonly carl function without the Palestinians," Ms. Hass aid, noting that Palestinians make up

only seven per cent of the Israeli work force. However, "in the short run,

Israeli employers do depend on Palestinians," Ms. Hass aid. "Many employers feel they can't do without the Palestinians," particularly in the agriculture and construction fields, she pointed "These short-term market con-

straints will force Israel to ease or lift the closure," she asserted.

Ms. Hass said "many Israeli politicians realise that it is dangerous to close off the occupied territories completely." The economy of the occupied territories is dependent on the Israeli economy, she said. "One-third of the Palestinian

labour force is dependent on work opportunities in Israel," Ms. Hass said. There is also shortage of land for development. by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, with 40 per cent to 60 per cent of the land designated as

state-owned, she added. Israel "can't close the territories, on the one hand, and keep the economy stagnant, on the other," she said.

"Palestinians should have a right to work in Israel as long as it is in control of the territories" and "as long as there are no job opportunities in the territories," Ms. Hass said.

Ms. Hass said the Rabin government had closed off the West Bank and Gaza as one way of pressuring the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks to return to the negotiating table. In doing so, the Israeli government is holding the basic right of Palestinians to work "hostage" to its policies, she

Ms. Hass added that the clo-

series of attacks on Israelis by Palestinians. "The panic in Israel was very authentic," she stressed.

Ms. Hass said Palestinian workers - both registered and unregistered - are not treated. equally in Israel, even though Israeli law stipulates Palestinians "are entitled to the same rights and conditions as Israeli work-

"The problem is not about law," she said. "The problem is about application." Ms. Hass said Palestinian workers are routinely denied unemployment fees, 125ceive lesser pensions than Israeli workers get, and often get paid below the minimum wage. -

Established three and a half years ago, Workers' Hotline has reached thousands of Palestinian workers, informing them of their sure of the occupied territories is rights under the law, arbitrating also an attempt by the Rabin -disputes with employers; and government to ease the panic advising workers during court many Israelis felt after a recent proceedings, Ms. Hass said.

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#### Sudanese exiles seek to stop talks

The Farhat case, according

to former residents of Kuwait,

was not an isolated affair but

only one of hundreds, if not

thousands, of incidents of atro-

cities and brutal attacks carried

out by vengeful Kuwaitis in

Many victims of the rampage

of the Kuwaitis appear to have

chosen to keep quiet about

their ordeal, particularly rape

cases, mainly because of shame

But the Farhat case gained

international media attention

as a result of Naim Farhat's

strong campaign and now it

stands out as one of the most

embarrassing to the Kuwaiti

The New York-based

Lawyers Committee for Hu-

man Rights sent a delegation

to Kuwait in January and re-

ported this month that "there

are many factors which militate

against respect for human

rights in Kuwait." and said the

regime "has exerted influence

detrimental to the government

being held accountable for its

In its 61-page report, which

The months after libera-

included a close review of the

Farhat case, the committee

tion, during which martial law

was enforced, were marked by

severe violations of human

rights perpetrated by Kuwaitis

against primarily non-Kuwaiti

"Although the government was able to bring this wide-

spread lawlessness under con-

trol, although not until scores had lost their lives and tens of

thousands had fled in fear, it has been unable, or unwilling,

to identify and punish those

responsible for the numerous

documented acts of extra-

"The knowledge that these criminals are still at large in

Kuwait, some of them believed

to be members of the security

forces, casts a shadow not only

over the human rights situa-

tion, but also over the pros-

pects for achieving the rule of

the law.'

judicial killing and torture.

post-crisis Kuwait.

and family honour.

CAIRO (R) - Exiled opponents of Sudan's Islamic government flew to Kenya Friday to try to persuade southern rebels to boycott talks aimed at ending 10 years of civil war.

The group of Sudanese politicians, in Cairo since a military coup ousted Sudan's last democratic government in 1989, said the hard-pressed, autonomyseeking rebels should not go to the peace talks scheduled for April 26 in Nigeria.

"The delegation will affirm its fixed position. There is no dialogue and no reconciliation with the Islamic front and its government," said Farouk Abu Isa, a member of the group and chairman of an Arab lawyers,' association based in Cairo.

"Any dialogue or (peace) agreement has no value or fu-

Mr. Abu Isa said the Sudanese National Democratic Forum, a coalition of some of the parties banned by Khartoum, would meet leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in

The Sudanese government faces growing international isolation following allegations of human rights abuses and support for Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas.

**EMERGENCIES** 

Food Control Centre

# 'No new pyramid chamber'

CAIRO (R) — A German archaeologist denied a report Friday that a burial chamber which might hold untold treasures had been discovered deep inside Egypt's Great Pyramid of Cheops.

Rainer Stadelmann said a team of archaeologists, using a robot, had found a long passage leading from a chamber in the centre of the pyra-But the passage was for the

soul of the dead pharaoh to pass from the chamber into the skies and the afterlife, he It was too small for humans even to crawl through, said

Mr. Stadelmann, who is director of German Archaeological Institute in Britain's Independent newspaper said the team had found a secret chamber which

some experts believed might contain the mummy of the Pharaoh Cheops and treasures "every bit as stunning at that of Tutankhamen's." "I don't know how this story happened but I can tell you this is very annoying." Mr. Stadelmann told Renters

by telephone. Cheops is the largest of the three Great Pyramids which are the last surviving seven wonders of the ancient world.

high. Mr. Stadelmann said the tiny video-equipped robot, designed by robotics expert Rudolf Gantenbrink, climbed up a passage 20 centimetres square from the chamber of dreams in the heart of the pyramid.

The passage was previously thought to be eight metres long but the robot climbed 60 metres along the passage before coming to a stone block-

ing the way.
The Independent said the stone covered the entrance to the secret chamber. But Mr. Stadelmann said since the passage was a "model" never designed for human use such a stone was not unusual. It did not conceal any chamber, he said.

"There is surely no other chamber," he added. "This passage has never been used

or seen by humans."
The pharaoh's burial chamber was looted about 2,000 B.C., 700 years after his death, although his mummy survived until the Middle Ages, Mr. Stadelmann said. He said there had never

been any treasures found in the pyramids, unlike burial chambers in the Valley of the Kings at Luxor.

# U.S. envoy sees progress at Mideast peace talks

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The U.S. ambassador to Israel said Friday he was "optimistic" that the ninth round of Middle East peace talks due to start in Washington Tuesday would lead to progress.
"I don't believe that we are

going to see any peace treaty signed in the next month, of course not," Ambassador William Harrop told Israel Radio. "But I think that we are going to begin to see progress and I

think there is every reason to be optimistic that will take place." The foreign ministers of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestinian representatives were expected to announce a return to the bilateral peace negotiations after a four-month delay when they meet in Damascus Friday

and Saturday.

The talks broke up on Dec. 17 over Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon. The Palestinians have slowly pulled back first from demands that all the expellees must be brought back and then that a solution to the crisis must be found before they will resume the peace talks.

Mr. Harrop said: "The deportees will all be back by the middle of December of this year and this really will be in direct accord with United Nations Resolution 799."

Israel agreed in February to ka 101 of the expellees come back immediately and the remainder by the end of the year under an accord with Washington. Washington pledged to halt a threat of U.N. sanctions for failing to obey Security Council Resolution 799, which called for an immediate return, and to work to get the peace negotiations back

"We've not felt any need to press Israel beyond that point and we have not really done so." Mr. Наттор added.

Israeli Government sources say Israel is ready to make a series of "concessions" to the Palestinians Israel has agreed for example to allow the leading Palestinian from the occupied territories, Faisal Husseini, to join the off;

cial Palestinian delegation. In an interview from Washing ton, Israel's Ambassador Itamai Rabinovich told the radio that the fact that Mr. Husseini lives in Arab East Jerusalem did not imply the status of Jerusalem was negotiable.

"Absolutely not," he said."
His probable participation is part of a policy to strengthen the (Palestinian) delegation's postion, to give it some muscle, to allow the talks to concentrate of more concrete issues."

...... Bahrain, Doha (RJ) ...... Jeddah (RJ) ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

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Church of the Annunciation Tel.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. 652526 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saluts Tel. 823824, 654932 Church of Natarene Tel.675691.

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

The kingdom will remain under the khamasini weather conditions. Therefore, it will be hot, dry and dusty, with some medium and high clouds covering the sky during daytime. Winds will be southerly to southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.
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# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

#### **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

	LOOK CORRES CORRE
AMMAN:	Civil Defence Department 661111
Dr. Ahmad Yousef 786384	Cwil Defence Immediate
Dr. Mohammad Imram 612232	Rescue
Dr. Walced Kiswani ()	Civil Defence Emergency 199
Dr. Walced Kiswani () Dr. Abbas Hakeem 885446	Rescric Police 192_621111_637777
Fires pharmacy 661912	Fire Briesde 891228
Ferdows pharmacy 778336	Blood Bank 775121
Al Asema pharmacy 637055	Highway Police 843402
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672	Traffic Police 896390
Al Şalam pharmacy 636730	Public Security Department 634321
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	Hotel Complaints 605800
Shracisani pharmacy 637660	Prior Complaints 661176
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, ,,	Complaints
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Dr. Ayman Sheikha (—) Al Quda Pharmacy (—)	Complaints
ALCO-A Pho-	Telephone Information
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ZARQA:	Overses Cars
Dr. Hisham Sharabati (—)	Central Amman Telephone

#### Abdali Telephone Repairs ... Jordan Television ... 636381

#### HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.... 642441/2 Jabel Amman Maternity...... 642362

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Italian, Al-Muhajreen ...... 777101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich ..... 775111/26 ZAROA: (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital ... (09)900560 fbn Sina Hospital ... (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09) 990990 RBD:

> Princess Haya Hospital .... (03)31411) FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal

Jordanian (RI) information depart-ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Other Flights (Terminal 2)

#### APPIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) . Jakarta, Singapore (RJ) ----- Dhahran (RJ) Cairo, Acaba (Ri)

Karachi, Dubai (RI) Colomb New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
London, Berlin (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) . Larmaca (R.

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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.... Paris, Brussles (RJ)
..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday holds an open dialogue with citizens of Tafileh Governorate. The Crown Prince is accompanied by Minister of Interior Jawdat

Al Shoul (left), Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat (second from right) and Tafileh Governor Mohammad Al Talbouni (right) (Petra photo)

# Crown Prince inspects Tafileh area

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday said local executive, consultative and development bodies play a major role in addressing the problems, and needs of local councils.

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Speaking at an open dialogue neeting with citizens and Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament members in Tafileh, Prince Hassan stressed the importance of defining priorities of work and dealing with them within a team spirit if growth and development are to be achieved.

He pointed to the consultative council, formed in Tafileh governorate, saying it can play an important role in solving prob-Jems, defining priorities and dis-cussing needs.

The Crown Prince said the council includes the governor, members of both Houses of Parliament and representatives of local councils.

As part of his tour in Tafileh governorate, Prince Hassan met with citizens from the village. Prince Hassan also visited the tomb of Al Hareth Ben Omair one of the companions of Brophet Mohammad) and called

for its restoration.

He inspected the Princess Basma Social Services Centre in Tafileh, the supply warehouses and the Tafileh Sports and Culturai Club, and was briefed on the services offered by these centres

The Crown Prince visited Prince Zeid Ibn Al Hussein hospital, inspected its various sections and was briefed on its ser-

He also visited some patients and listened to their views on the standard of health care offered to

Patients said the hospital lacks a renal dialysis unit, an orthopaedic centre and a special section for the treatment of urinary The hospital has a capacity of

120 beds, but can be expanded to accommodate 212 patients.
Tafileh Governor Mohammad Al Talhouni reviewed the

achievements of the government departments in the governorate, as well as their current and future

He said 97 per cent of Tafileh governorate is electrified and

ter and telephone services. 'Mr. Talhouni pointed out that the governorate's budget for 1993 includes an allocation of JD 2,456,000 for educational proiects, JD 340,000 for health proects, JD 1,700,000 for public works and housing, JD 400,000 for the establishment of a vocational training centre, JD 290,000 for constructing boundary walls, in addition to other allocations.

Tafileh deputies Abdullah Al Akaileh and İbrahim Al Ghababsheh reviewed the needs of the governorate, calling for turning it into a centre of attraction and development for citizens.

They also called for addressing the problems of poverty and unemployment and stressed the need for maintaining the Afra baths, establishing tourist projects, and solving the pollution problems resulting from the dust emanating from the Rashidieh cement factories.

Prince Hassan was accompamed on the tour by Interior Minister Jawdat Al Sboul and Minister of Municipal and Rural most residential areas receive wa- Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat.

# U.N.embargo enforcers step up search of Aqaba bound ships

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Western warships patrolling the Red Sea for contraband in possible violation of a U.N. embargo on Iraq have recently stepped up their activities the Straits of Tiran and turner back two cargo vessels with goods bound for Jordan via the Port of Aqaba, according to a spokesman for Gargour Shipping Agents in

The spokesman told the Jordan Times Friday that on April 7, the embargo enforcers intercepted the Sudanese vessel Al Abiad, which was carrying 2,700 tonnes of various kinds of merchandise from Europe to Aqaba and refilsed to allow it to proceed to the Jordanian port.

The embargo enforcers ordered the vessel to discharge its 50 containers in other ports along the Red Sea under the pretext

that the naval officers were not able to reach and search all packages on board the vessel, said the

He said it was impractical for every single package to be sear-

Gargour Shipping Agents had thorities at the Port of Aqaba toensure the arrival of the vessel on schedule, but efforts were unsuccersful because the naval forces persisted that the vessel should unioad its cargo elsewhere.

Following a delay of four days, the vessel was forced to head for Port Sudan to unload part of its cargo before heading once again towards Aqaba, which it should reach in the coming week, pro-vided there are no further interceptions, noted the spokes-

In another incident on April 14, the Norwegian vessel Windfield, carrying paper for Jorda-

was intercepted at the Strait of Tiran and prevented from proceeding to Aqaba to unload its

He said the U.S.-led naval forces insisted that each roll of paper on board the vessel, be ship's captain found impossible to do and therefore the ship was forced to turn to Jeddah Port in Saudi Arabia where the cargo is

to be discharged. Sufian Mheissen, director of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association, said in a statement to Reuter last month that only cruise ships heading to Aqaba will not be searched, but all those carrying goods to be unloaded at Aqaba will remain under strict inspection.

He said Jordan incurs heavy loses as a result of the turning away of ships from the country's only port.

# 3,000 silent marchers commemorate Palestinian land, prisoner's days

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least 3,000 peo-ple turned out in a silent march Friday commemorating Palesti-nian Land Day, March 30, and Palestinian Prisoner's Day, April

The march, organised by the Women's Committee, part of the the Support of the Intifada, was resistance of the Palestinian people in the face of the Israeli

the solidarity of the Jordanian people with their Palestinian brethren, insisting upon their steadfastness."

The march, according to its organisers, has its political and

Politically, it aims at reminding Jordanians of the situation in the occupied territories and ensuring their Palestinian brethren that 'they are not alone.'

Wafiyeh Al Bargouti, a participant in the march, said the assembling of a significant number of people coming from all aspects of life will boost the morale of our families in the

Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin.

political life and democratic path.

al Expo Centre.

**HOME NEWS IN BRIEF** 

Sharif Zeid receives JD 15,000 for Peoples Army

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

Thursday received a cheque in the amount of JD 15,000 as a

donation from Zarqa Chamber of Commerce to Peoples Army.

The cheque was handed to Sharif Zeid by President of Zarqa

Chamber of Commerce Ibrahim Taqieddin, who called at the

Prime Minister's office, together with members of the chamber's

board. Sharif Zeid expressed appreciation and gratitude to Zarqa

citizens and the chamber for their initiative and true belonging.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Prime Ministry

Arabiyat highlights Jordan's democracy in India

AMMAN (J.T.) — In his address to the International Parliament

Union meeting in New Delhi, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat stressed "the importance of the

building of the state of law and institutions; the vitality of

constructive dialogue; and hearing various opinions. The speaker

said Jordan resumed its "democratic march in confident steps and

wivid vision" which makes, it "confident of its future, results and fruits," adding that "it will be a healthy model of participation and

political plurality." Dr. Arabiyat said the adoption of several bills on public freedoms have become an integral part of Jordan's

WHAT'S GOING ON

Suha Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.

★ Exhibition entitled "Recreation" by Jordanian, French and

\* Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahya at the

\* Exhibition of books and educational facilities at the Internation-

★ Exhibition of prints, entitled "Architectural Motifs from the Arab World," by Rima Farah at the gallery, Hotel Jordan
 ★ Arabic play entitled "The Dawn and Sunset of a Girl Called Yasmin" at 7 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.

MS-VIDEO (WINDOWS)

GETAWAY/6-GAMES (WINDOWS)

Iraqi artists, inspired by a sculpture by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Abdullah, at the French Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Lujalna Al Aseel at Baladna Art

matter how small, is what is

important. The march is an indication that there are those who share in their hopes and pains... that there are others who want to see an end to the Israeli occupation and to see Palestinians living freely on their land," Ms. Basheer added.

Organisers targetted the public Jordanian Popular Committee for and private schools and focused on the participation of the youndescribed by participants as a ger generation to increase nation-symbol of their support for the all awareness and to develop feelings of national belonging among

One of the organisers, Haifa Al Basheer, said the march "shows of the march to support the intifada, and so that the deportees return to their homes... so that I can return to Palestine."

Proceeds of the march will benefit martyr and injured families, said Aisha Odeh, one of the

Ms. Odeh, a Palestinian deportee since 1979, said the Women's Committee expects to raise more than JD 40,000 from this event. Under the patronage of Her

Royal Highness Princess Haya, who was unable to attend and delegated Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashaqbeh to attend on her behalf, the march started at the Professional Association Complex in Shmeisathat "this march is a form of ni and ended at the Royal Auto-

Marchers block the streets of Amman Friday in a silent procession from Shmeisani to the

Eighth Circle in commemoration of Palestinian Land Day and Palestinian Prisoner's Day (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

mobile Club at the Eighth Circle. Thousands of people, mostly sporting white T-shirts embossed with words and a symbol commemorating the nearly five and a half year uprising, blocked some of the main streets in Amman.

Although, the march was supposed to be silent, some of the youth tried to chant slogans, while others carried music boxes bursting with loud music. But both groups were stopped

most part the march was silent. When asked why they decided to hold a silent march, Ms. Basheer said: "Our motto is silence and silence is more elo-

At the Royal Automobile Club, Al Hanouneh dabkeh and singing group waited to entertain the marchers with their political and cultural songs and dances.

quent than words."

by the organizers and for the power failure prevented the group from continuing its per-

> Some participants felt that the power failure was a deliberate measure by the . Helligence serrice to calm the rousing emotions of the audience

But, a few of the remaining participants began to sing and dance, uneffected by the power

# Jordanian, Egyptian businessmen pledge promotion of trade, cooperation

to a statement Thursday evening. The statement, issued one day following the end of the council's two-day meeting, said the and ought to have their quotas businessmen will work towards launching joint ventures to help promote the marketing of national products in the neighbouring

Arab countries. The meeting called on the con-

Businessmen pledged to exert se- on equitable and reciprocal bases rious efforts to promote and called for the stimulation of Jordanian-Egyptian trade and the work and activities of the two economic cooperation, according countries' trade centres operating in Cairo and Amman.

These trade centres should be able to sell directly to the public increased annually, said the state-

The businessmen, who decided to form a standing joint committee to follow up on the implementation of recommendations cerned authorities in Cairo and and decisions, stressed their de- men visited Sahab Industrial Amman to remove customs bar- termination to exchange informa- City.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council riers impeding the flow of pro-of Jordanian and Egyptian ducts between Jordan and Egypt and to examine areas where joint and to examine areas where joint ventures can be initiated.

> The two sides called on their governments to allow trucks from Egypt and Jordan to move freely in transit operations in each other's territories.

They also called on travel agencies stimulate activities and promote tourist exchanges through special group rate offers for hotel accommodations and air fares.

On the last day of their stay in Amman, the Egyptian business-

# 100 plus companies prepare largest exhibition to honour King

By Sa'eda Kilani

AMMAN — More than one hundred companies will participate in the largest exhibition to be held in Jordan next month to celebrate the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers...

The exhibition, which will take place on May 2, will display photos reflecting Jordan's history and development before and after the King assumed his constitu-

colonised country headed by done for us." country that had the courage to say "no" to superpower countries," said retired Brigadier General Suleiman Qudah at a

press conference Wednesday.

held at the Chamber of Industry. "We have a certain obligation towards our beloved King," said Mr. Qudah who is the director of the General Corporation for Export Development (GCED), the

company organising the event.
"We have to meet the King's

Private and public compan

will participate in the week-long exhibition which will be attended by prominent personalities and senior officials.

It will focus mainly on the educational development in Jordan and the progress of the Armed Forces over the last 40

"We want to point out that a successful country is not meait will highlight the various love and giving with more love money, but by its stability and security: symbols of the Hashesured by its factories and its historical stages of the Kingdom's and more giving to recompensate security: symbols of the Hashedevelopment "from a weak and as much we can for what he has mite Kingdom," Mr. Qudah said.

# Û HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN Ũ Û An Easter LunchYou'll Never Forget! Sunday 18th of April, 1993 at the Û

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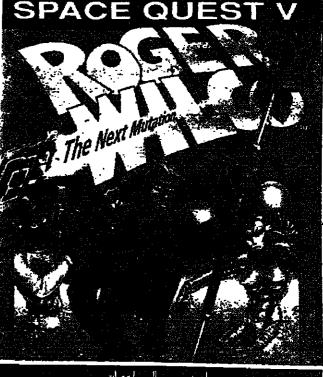
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# **Jordan Times**

رين تايعز يربية عربية سياسية مستكلة تصدر بالانطيزية عن المؤسسة المسيغية الاربغية

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#### Creative construction

IT IS estimated that no less than \$4 billion was invested in real estate in the 1990-92 period. While some of the money that went into stones, concrete and iron could be justified for legitimate reasons connected with sudden and unexpected population growth, much of the dinars that were spent on construction may not have been economically sound since it meant the diversion of urgently needed funds from industrial projects that could have generated employment to the increasing numbers of unemployed Jordanians. No wonder many economists have concluded that inspite of the hyper-construction activities in the country, the overall Jordanian economic picture shows that it is still stricken by a serious recession.

Real estate experts in the Kingdom have identified five major real estate cycles that have hit the country: 1952-1967, 1967-71, 1972-83, 1984-1989 and finally 1990-92. Each period was characterised by its own peculiar conditions and circumstances. Still these off-and-on cycles suggest that there is a pattern in Jordanian psychology when it comes to building houses or apartment buildings. By and large, the return to construction is often motivated by a makebelieve economic psychology that views housing as good investment and a haven against not only inflation but also against insecurity about the future. Jordanians appear to be still locked into a tradition that they cannot seem to be able to break away from, even when pure economic considerations would point to other more viable alternatives. Industrialisation in the Kingdom was hit hard in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis especially when Jordanian exporters of Jordanian finished products saw how fast their export markets in the Middle East could dissipitate into thin air. The shock waves of the Gulf conflict have obviously put a: damper on further investment in industry and the available money or credit was readily transferred to construction.

Against this backdrop, the government should develop a more coherent policy on construction especially in urban areas where the tentacles of building have penetrated deep into fertile agricultural lands. This, the government can do by influencing or even controlling the banking policy in the country which seems to contribute to the problem by extending easy credit for these purposes instead of other more viable economic ventures. Municipalities are also called upon to streamline a more enlightened licensing policy with a view to curtailing the proliferation of unnecessary investment in stones and cement. There are all sorts of avenues available to local and central governments to influence, or even control, the runaway real estate expenditure. The Middle Eastern political climate can be expected to improve soon especially if peace is indeed around the corner. The industrialisation programme in the country, that sprung up last decade and came suddenly to a damaging halt, should be encouraged for an early resumption. There is no way that Jordan's economic woes, including unemployment and dependence, can be resolved without the diversion of funds to industrialisation. Jordanian industrial products proved to be highly competitive regionally as well as internationally. There is no reason to cast doubt on the ability of Jordanian industrialists to make additional gains in their quests for penetrating new markets in the future. The orientation to industry calls for governmental policy and action and the first line of offense is to put the lid on runaway construction craze.

#### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

AL RA'I Arabic daily dwelt on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovia and said its people live a tragic experiment as a result of the conspiracies of the U.S.-led western world. The tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina is not political, military or economic, it is rather a manifestation of the ongoing struggle between the West and the East ethnically, religiously and culturally, the paper said. The Serbian onslaught on the Muslims of Serbia is part of a U.S.-led western conspiracy against the Muslims and a new form of crusade against the East, it continued. Over the ages, the Muslims, whose religion is one of tolerance have fallen victim to the conspiracies of the Romans, the old and the new, and have suffered a great deal as a result of injustice and continued aggression, said the daily. It accused the western world of genocide against the Muslims, starting with the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Egypt and Algeria before carrying out similar plots against the rest of the Muslim World.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i expressed the view that all the Arab parties to the peace process will go to Washington on schedule and will comply with the desires and the wishes of the U.S.Israeli alliance. 1 areq Masarweh said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who visited Washington and talkd to president Clinton. passed on Israel's terms to the Americans who, in turn, passed them on to Mr. Mubarak and the other Arab parties. The Is a reeting, between Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Rabin, said the writer, was in line with a tripartite plan to implement Israel's ideas on the future of the Arab territories occupied since 1967. The U.S.-Israeli plan does not entail any pressure by Washington against Mr. Rabin and his overnment for any concessions, theretore, the Arabs have r. alternative but to accept the U.S. biased role as it is, with no change in the American position as the Arabs had hoped, said the writer.

# Can Arabs expect impartiality from U.S. policy?

By Pascal B. Karmy

WARREN CHRISTOPHER'S broker. What has the U.S. done statement before the congressional committee a few days ago on the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular and on the Middle East in general was clearly biased towards Israel and prejudicial to the Arabs. This attitude does not really surprise the Arabs. Ever since the creation of Israel, and despite its occupation of Palestimian and Arab states' territories in 1967, its state terrorism against the Palestinian Lebanese peoples and its flouting of numerous United Nations resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the U.S. has never deflected from defending Israel in all international

Mr. Warren Christopher's statement outlines in effect the policy of the new Democratic administration towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, which does not substantially differ from that of previous American administrations. It is not an impartial policy and the Arabs may be doubtful whether the U.S. can participate as a full, honest partner in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. One may legitimately conclude that the U.S. will participate as a full side, away from being an honest cannot and should not make any

to stop Israel from its cruel, callous and inhuman treatment of the Palestinians in their homeland who are rightly resisting Israeli occupation as any other subjugated people would do? This is not violence on both sides, as the U.S. usually describes it thus equating the victim with the

Mr. Christopher reiterated the

U.S.'s refusal to resume the dialogue with the PLO, the solerepresentative of the Palestinian people, although one hundred and twenty-two (122) states have recognised the PLO thus encompassing the great majority of the world's population. As is wellknown, the PLO had recognised Israel in 1988 in Geneva and Chairman Yasser Arafat has condemned terrorism and declared that the provision in the Palestine Charter regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state over all Palestine of the mandate period was "caduc," that is obsolescent or null and void. What more can be expected from

By its concessions the PLO has' already alienated many parties and groups among the Palestinian partner but rather on Israel's as well as the Arab peoples. It

oil and deposits stashed in U.S.

Another attack on Kuwait

came from Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, who

said that the Kuwaiti rulers

have now sunk to the lowest

level by openly selling them-

selves out to Israel and its allies

Jordan, and other Arab states

and the PLO because these

Arabs have voiced their

opposition to settling the Iraqi-

Kuwaiti dispute with western

guns and aggression, said the

writer. He said that as a result

of their conspiracies with the

West, the Kuwaiti rulers have

caused untold sufferings to the

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist

in Sawt Al Shaab daily, turned

his attention to the ongoing

efforts to achieve solidarity

among Arab countries, citing

the latest pan-Arab meetings

held in Amman to achieve that

The resolutions of the Arab

labour conference barely

touched on the need to ensure

the compensation of the

Palestinian and Jordanian

workers forced out from

Kuwait, said the writer. The

Arab participants should have

made it clear that the Jorda-

nians' and the Palestinians'

rights ought to be respected

and the Arab League and its

various branches should deal

with this matter and follow up

the compensation issue, the

Tareq Masarweh said in Al Ra'i that the Arab labour con-

ference was a manifestation of

the Arab countries' desire to

achieve a solidarity that would

end the disarray in Arab ranks.

But, he said, such a confer-

ence, and others like it, should

not serve as a cover up for the

atrocities committed against

the Palestinians and Jorda-

writer said.

Arab World.

The Kuwaitis are hostile to

against the Arab Nation.

banks.

more concessions, especially not before Israel's complete withdrawal from the Palestinian territory, the establishment of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the establishment of the Palestine state. Any more concessions by it will simply efface it and let it fail into oblivion. Why, therefore, does not the U.S. deal directly with the PLO instead of dealing with proxies who in effect receive their instructions from the PLO headquarters in Tunis? This is an ostrich-like attitude which the Democratic administration should discard for the sake of solving quickly and justly the Palestine-Israel conflict. International law is on the Palestinian

In his above-mentioned statement Mr. Christopher has claimed that the Arab states should lift the economic boycott against Israel, especially as regards American companies which have trade or investment interests in Israel. The U.S. administration is surely aware of the fact that the boycott of Israel was decided by the Arab League as a result of the wars and state terrorism which Israel has and continues to wage

side. No state can deny this.

against the Palestinians and the Arab states and the consequent occupation of Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories. It is a legitimate boycott under international law, when a state of war exists, and it can be lifted only after Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the conclusion of a peace treaty between Israel and the Arab states concerned. Moreover, no single Arab state can lawfully lift the boycott as this was decided by the Arab League council and can be lifted by it only. In this connection, did not the U.S. impose a blockade on Nicaragua during the Sandinista regime despite the non-existence of a state of war between them? And is not the U.S. still boycotting Cuba, although no state of war exists between them? In law one cannot approbate and reprobate at the same time in respect of the same

It may be concluded from U.S. policy towards the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular, as evinced in Warren Christopher's statement and from President Bill Clinton's declarations before and after his election, that the Arabs should not pin great hopes on the U.S. for a redress of disputes, and at a time their tables. . .

just peace in their conflict with Israel. Israel is still a strategic ally of the U.S. whereas some of the Arab states are marginal allies. This U.S.-Israel strategic alliance

was established during the cold war to counter the Soviet Union before its collapse. One may wonder now who this strategic alliance is directed against. Maybe it is against the Arab and, or the Muslim states, as the case requires it.

The U.S., with its allies Britain and France, is threatening Libya with stronger sanctions if it does not surrender for trial the two persons suspected of having blown up the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, in Scotland, and the French airliner over Chad. Libya is not obliged, under international law to surrender its own citizens for trial in a foreign state and there is no extradition treaty between Libya and the three states concerned. The Security Council resolution on this case, decided on April 15, 1992, was wrongly taken and as the result of pressures exercised upon Security Council members. The honourable members have totally ignored Chapter VI of the U.N. Charter which calls for peaceful

when Libya, in compliance with international law, had resorted to the International Court of Justice. As Professor Marc Weller wrote in "The European" news paper, some judges were privateenraged by this use of the Security Council: "For in thin instance the mechanism designed to combat actual acts of aggression has been transformed into a machinery for ad hoc law-making to further the interests of individual states and prejudice the decision of the court."
In a nutshell the U.S. policy

and sometimes that of Britain and France, put the Arabs way down on the scale of their balance. This is the result of the Arab states' divisions, disarray and rivalry. The victims are of course the Arab peoples. We are living in a new, "feudal" world order dominated by the U.S., in the first place, with Britain and France following. And unless the Arab states wake up, achieve solidarity and form one block in the world arena, they will simply remain "vassals" of the abovementioned "feudal" lord states. The latter will enslave the Arab peoples and monopolise their riches and resources, leaving them the crumbs that fall from

#### THE WEEK IN PRINT

# No peace can be achieved without 242, 338

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE IMMINENT resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington, inter-Arab relations, Iraq, and domestic issues were given prominence in the Jordanian press over the past week.

Sawt Al Shaab daily believed that the Arab parties, including the Palestinians, will go to Washington for the talks, noting that President Bill Clinton had promised to Arabs and the world that 1993 would be

the year of peace. But, said the paper, despite the Arab countries' decision, nothing should change their mind about the need for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and about the fact that Israel should not be allowed to change the concept of the present negotiations as being based on anything other than resolutions 242 and 338.

Al Dustour said that the Palestinian side to the peace talks could change its mind about participation in the coming parley in view of the current situation in the occupied Arab territories where Israel is starving two million Arabs.

Israel's imposition of siege and its starving of the Palestinian people can only be bad for the coming Washington parley and therefore Israel's policies against the Palestinians should be stopped before the resumption of talks, the paper urged. It said Israel's collective punishment of the Arab people s in violation of all human rights and all international

Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Israel stands to lose a great deal more than the Palestinians by a siege of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that the Israeli economy is badly hit and the factories and construction businesses suffer. But, the writer said, Israel seems to be aiming at something deeper and more sinister: to stiffe the spirit of resistance among the Arabs with such harsh mea-

The impossible situation in the occupied territories, added the writer, has now forced thousands to leave for Jordan. something which is seen as part of Israel's so-called transfer policies against the Arab

Taher Al Udwan said in Al Dustour that the collective ounishment of the Palestinians is a crime that has to be stopped. While the Arab World is totally silent about this atrocity, Jordan and its people, said the writer, should not remain passive. They should express their support for their kinsmen by word and deed, morally and materially, and should contribute to Palestinian steadfastnėss.

A number of columnists attacked Kuwait and its Foreign Minister Sabah Al Ahmad for his latest hostile statements against Jordan and the call for ending the Arab boycott of Israel. This is not surprising because the Kuwaitis have long ago sold themselves out to the western countries and normalised their relations with the Jewish state, said Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab daily. The writer said that Israel

nians in Kuwait, but rather has been importing its oil from should reemphasise their full Knwait since 1948 been launching aggression on Arab countries with Kuwait's

Jordan has succeeded in creating the right atmosphere for a successful parley in Amman, he said, but this is not enough. Solidarity should mean ending the difficulties created by the Kuwaitis to the people of Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Sudan and others evicted without compensation from Kuwait.

Mohammad Subeihi, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that Qatar's recent decision to allow Jordanians to retain their jobs and to open the door for more Jordanians to come was a welcome development.

He said that the Gulf countries have begun to realise Jordan's sound national stand durme the Guit crisis and are not extending a friendly hand to the Jordanians. But the writer said that in view of the continued threats coming from Iran and in the light of Hosni Mubarak's recent statement that Iran was trying to dominate the Gulf, there is an urgent need for a pan-Arab conference to discuss pan-Arab national security in the face of external threats.

Mr. Mubarak's statement that Iran can be checked only by Iraq, which can create a balance of power in the Gulf, was discussed by Abdul Rahim Omar in Al Ra'i. The writer said that although this is correct, one can only say that Mr. Mubarak, who has now realised the danger of Iran, should have tried to solve the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute by Arab means and not by allowing the destruction of Iraqi military power to serve Israel's purposes and objectives.

Mr. Mubarak should end the embargo on Iraq and should convince the West to end its hostility towards Iraq before it is too late, he said.

In Al Dustour's view, Mr. Mubarak's statement repre-

sented a turning point in Egypt's policies and a positive development. The paper said that though Mr. Mubarak's statement came late, one can only note that it emerged only when the western countries are busy with a hostile campaign against Iran. Yet, it said, we hope that Mr. Mubarak is revising Egypt's policies and is taking steps towards addres-

sing previous blunders.
Salameh Ekour attacked the U.S. and western alliance for their continued hostile attitude towards Iraq. The more we hear statements about full cooperation on the part of Iraq with the U.N. inspectors, the more hostile these western nations become, said the writer. It is astonishing to see such an attitude and to hear about protory by U.S. and western planes at a time when Iraq is reported to be more committed to implementing U.N. resolutions, said the writer.

Samir Oitami said in Sawt Al Shaab that Iraq is facing contimed international conspiracies which create anger and indignation in the hearts of Arabs. Worse still are the statements we hear from Arab leaders now and then expressing support for the Iraqi people but without lifting a finger to alleviate their sufferings, said the writer.

Taher Al Udwan said that the western countries proved their hypocrisy by claiming that the Gulf is being threatened by Iran which is seeking to become a nuclear power. What about Israel, which possesses more than 200 nuclear warheads and continues to threaten the security of the Arab region, asked Udwan.

He said that the western countries resorted to destroying the Iraqi military power for the sake of retaining their hold on Gulf oil and now they are trying to present Iran as a source of danger to pave

the ground for another aggression to ensure constant domination of the Arab

Khalil Al Sawahiri, a colunnist in Al Ra'l, attacked the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for what he said were its intended plans to reduce services to the Palestinian refugees in Jordan. A statement by the agency's

commissioner general last month that the level of services will be reduced due to the recurrent deficit in the agency's budget is very serious indeed and is viewed as a form of pressure on the Palestinians, said the writer. The agency's services are part of a mandate by the United Nations in effect until the Palestinians have been repatriated, he noted.

The writer said that any threats of reducing the level of services along with the agency's other measures, like freezing employees' increments, can only be interpreted as a form of pressure on the Arabs.

 Ahmad Dabbas said in Sawt Al Shaab that if UNRWA reduces its services, Jordan will be hard hit because this leaves heavy tasks to the Jordanian government which is already overburdened with commitments towards the unfortunate

Jordan, said the writer, has been providing basic services to the residents of the camps ever the past 45 years and any reduction of the agency's services would cause imbalances and additional burdens for the local authorities.

Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the agency's move to reduce its services is a plot that should be stemmed to the bud. Six thousand five hundred agency employees are already affected by UNRWA's measures, rep-resented in the freezing of their annual increments, and the reduction of educational services is bound to affect 130,000 refugee students, said the writer.

UNRWA's plans are purely political and are meant as a pressure on the Jordanian government which is already overburdened with the task of caring for 400,000 Palestinians returning from Kuwait, said the

Mohammad Kawash criticised the government's planned step to impose a value added tax under the pretext of honouring the economic restructuring programme commitment made with the World Bank. The additional tax would force people to tighten their belts and do without many items, and goods they sary for their lives, said the

The World Bank, he said, is being used as a tool by the ure on Jordan and other Third World countries to fall in line with Washington's desires and policies or else face difficult times ahead.

Taber Al Udwan tackled the question of exorbitant private school fees in Jordan. Writing in Al Dustour, the columnist said that one after another of these schools are increasing their fees and creating new financial and educational crises in Jordan. The parents are facing a dilemma: to keep their children in these schools and pay the high fees or withdraw them and take them to government schools, overburdening the Ministry of Education, said the writer.

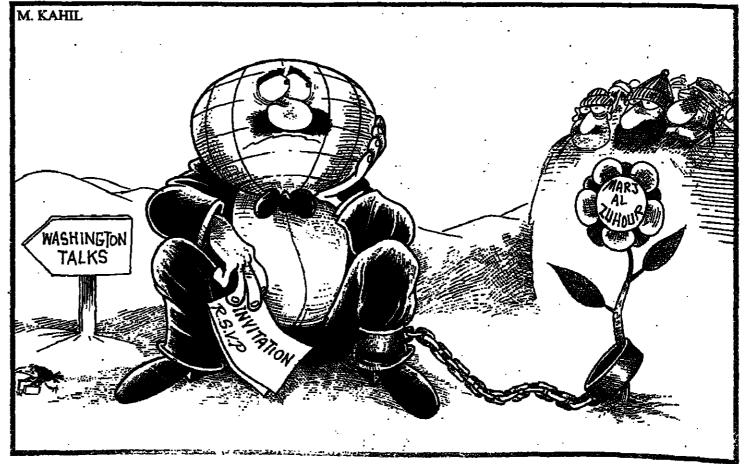
He said that if schools are facing financial crises, the issue should be settled in a democratic manner and the Ministry of Education should have a hand in solving the problem. Mona Shuqair, a columnist

in Al Dustour, said that Jordanians will soon be celebrating the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers. It would be an occasion of joy for every citizen and for all organisations in view of the King's relentless efforts over the past four decades to serve his nation and the Jordanian people, said the writer.

Yet, she said, Jordanian citizens and organisations should display a good level of maturity in celebrating the occasion in a manner different from the traditional style, especially in the official information services and the

The writer said that Jordanians should display their affection and support for their leader not by glorifying the King's person but rather objectively and sensibly and in a manner that conforms to the democratic process the Kingdom is living through.

No celebrations can match those accorded to the King when he returned to Amman following his successful medical treatment in the United States, she said. She added that the affection and support accorded to the King by the Jordanian people are unlimited. But, she said, this should not be expressed by lavish spending as King Hatesein would want us rather to spend on alleviating the suffer tion who live in abject poverty.



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to the day of the are large and by the US are with Bings S. Sommy And may dates wake up to iiv and form one by the stend, they will be about the second red (cudal bid & .c will enslave the in it monopolise and resources. the crumbs that failt.

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Clinton lauds Jordan's efforts

(Continued from page 1)

"We acknowledge and appreciate your monumental task of leading your great nation. We are Another chance to achieve just, equally certain, however, that lasting and comprehensive peace your enlightened leadership and in the region may not come again. noble convictions will greatly Jordan has much to gain from this contribute towards restoring process. We have made clear that peace, order and human dignity the United States would be an to all the troubled spots of the honest broker, a catalyst for world. The indispensable role of peace and a driving force to help the United States of America in ensure that negotiations are productive. The secretary of state the Middle East peace process, as a co-sponsor and as a superpowand I have reiterated the commiter, is an outstanding example. ment of the United States to play "It is needless to say that His an active role in helping the

Majesty King Hussein and the process succeed.
"Mr. Ambassador, you face government of Jordan have always advocated, as a matter of many challenges as you begin your important work here in principle and position, peaceful resolutions to conflicts. For such Washington. His Majesty King Hussein I and the government of resolutions to be lasting and durable, however, they must address and tackle the roots of the con-Jordan have entrusted you with an important position, and thus flicts in a just and comprehensive show great confidence in your manner based on international legitimacy. The full-fledged parti-cipation of Jordan and its conabilities and judgment. We share that confidence, and we look forward to working with you tinuous pivotal role, in both the throughout your tenure as Ambassador of Jordan to the bilateral and the multilateral peace negotiations, are the man-ifestation of our commitment to United States, to the mutual bethe noble cause of peace in the Middle East.

"Hope will never desert us

because we are believers in God

the Almighty, and because we are

convinced that fairness, equality

and justice to all human races will

replace their long torturous

agony and suffering. And as we,

Mr. President, share your assess-

ment of this world that is warmed by the sunshine of free-

dom but threatened still by

ancient hatreds and new plagues,

we assure you that Jordan will

always struggle to keep the lights

of freedom shining, to abrogate hatreds, and to abolish new pla-

"Mr. President, I seek your attention and advice and your

government's assistance in my

strive to strengthen the bonds of

our friendship and the position of

the assurances of my highest con-

Lebanon and Jordan and a Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) official met in Damascus

on Friday to decide whether to

attend the next round of Middle

pathisers or members of Islamic

groups opposed to the 17-month-old peace process, demand Israel

abide by a U.N. Security Council

resolution calling for their im-

They said they expected the

Palestinian delegation to attend a

ninth round of peace talks with

Israel as it had dropped its de-

The men sat down in the road

to eat after five hours but vowed

to march on despite about 20

Israeli soldiers or allied militia-

men waiting at a gate about 150

They smeared their faces with

onions in case of tear-gas. Israeli

helicopters monitored the men's

progress, which was also closely

followed by three Israeli tanks

"Be strong. Do not be afraid of death," Mohammad Abu Zeid, a

preacher at Al Aqsa Mosque in

Jerusalem, told them after shells

trial by Israel in December.

"The Kurdish people are passing through... very difficult

stages in every way. Our initiative

by ceasing fire is that we wanted

to open a new road for the people," Mr. Ocaian said.
"We demand the authorities

and people look at our cause with

open eyes," he added. "The step

towards democracy should take a

artillery-fire.

and two troop carriers.

metres south.

mand that all the exiles should

The 396 exiles, most sym-

East peace talks.

"Please accept, Mr. President,

our mutual interests.

Expellees stage 'death march'

(Continued from page 1)

after Sheikh Karawi was injured. first go home:

nefit of both our nations."
Following is the text of Mr.
Tarawneh's remarks: Mr. President.

"I have been instructed by Their Majesties, King Hussein I and Queen Noor, to extend to you - Honourable President and to the First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Their cordial regards and warmest congratulations on the occasion of your inauguration.
"It is indeed an honour and

privilege to present to you, Mr. President, my letter of credentials, accrediting me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States of America. My principal duty is to work closely with your administration towards deepening and enhancing our longstanding relationship that stands historically on firm grounds of common values and principles.

wounded in the chest.

It could not be immediately

determined whether he was

wounded by shrapnel or a small

piece of stone chipped off by the

Sheikh Karawi was carried into a blue van, which raced back to the camp clinic. His condition was not immediately known.

Earlier, the exiles held their

Friday noon prayers in open air in

the hot sun. As they knelt on the

ground, gunfire crackled over

them and a shell exploded some

50 metres away. No-one was hurt

The exiles halted their march

"It is clear that we cannot go

any farther," Abdul Aziz Al Ran-

"For the time being we will stay where we are. We will study the situation later," he added.

The men sat down in the road

facing Israeli tanks, armoured

troop carriers and soldiers wait-

ing at a gate about 500 metres north of the Zemraya checkpoint

The men, who ended their fourth month in exile Friday,

wore white headbands bearing the slogan: "Dying for the sake of

God is our purest wish." Some were draped in white burial

"From this advanced posi-

tion...I tell the so-called Palesti-

nian delegation it has to withdraw

forever and immediately from the

peace process." Dr. Rantisi told

"I tell the Arab delegations that you should keep your vows

and we will hold you responsible

for any breach of them...we

wanted the march to awaken the

world's conscience which forgot

Foreign ministers from Syria.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister

Erdal Inonu said Wednesday the

government would end seven years of emergency rule in the

mainly Kurdish southeast if the

region remained calm.

Asked whether the Turkish

government had responded to his

calls for dialogue, Mr. Ocalan

said: "There are signs but no

leading international

& Egypt

hotels in Turkey, Cyprus

in this shelling.

tisi told reporters.

with a water tanker.

shrouds.

reporters.

Palestinians want talks delayed (Continued from page, 1)

especially those of the Palesti-

nians, can be addressed most effectively at the negotiating

Chief Palestinian peace nego-tiator Haidar Abdul Shafi told the Paris-based Radio l'Orient in Washington the Arab side should not resume the talks on April 20 because Israel had failed to meet their minimum demands.

The plenary session here was preceded by a brief meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister Faronk Al Sharaa, Lebanon's Fares Bouez, Kamel Abu Jaber of Jordan and the PLO's Farouq

Minister Amr Musa also attended.

The head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee, Faisal Husseini, was not in Damascus, as previously re-ported, said Palestinian sources, adding that he ended meetings in Cairo and headed straight for

Mr. Amr Musa, who conveyed a message from President Hosni Mubarak to his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad, voiced hope the meeting here would not turn the expellees issue into "a public-

He said Egypt supported the expellees' right to return and ing the expelled Palestinians, to preserve the peace process, which is a priority and which should help them achieve their rights to self-determination, land and re-

Mr. Bouez said unity of the Arabs decision was essential and unity within Arab ranks to secure

their rights.
Official Damascus Radio said the Arab officials were holding their most dangerous meeting "as they are to take a final decision on their participation at the next round of talks.

Palestinian sources said they were disappointed that Egyptian President Mubarak failed to secure concessions when he met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Christians prevented from prayers

(Continued from page 1)

General Yomtov Samia, commander of the Israeli troops in. Gaza, told Israel Radio that 33 wanted men had been caught on the strip since the strip was closed

off on March 29. "The great majority of the Palestinians we have arrested are from Hamas," he said referring to the Islamic Resistance Move-

On the West Bank 10 wanted Palestinians have been arrested

along with 131 others since the territory was sealed off on March

The government has decided to maintain the ban on Palestinians

travelling to Israel indefinitely. That threw out of work the 116,000 Palestinians who used to travel daily to jobs in Israel. Under pressure from Israeli employers the authorities have this week granted 8,000 permits for

#### Srebrenica

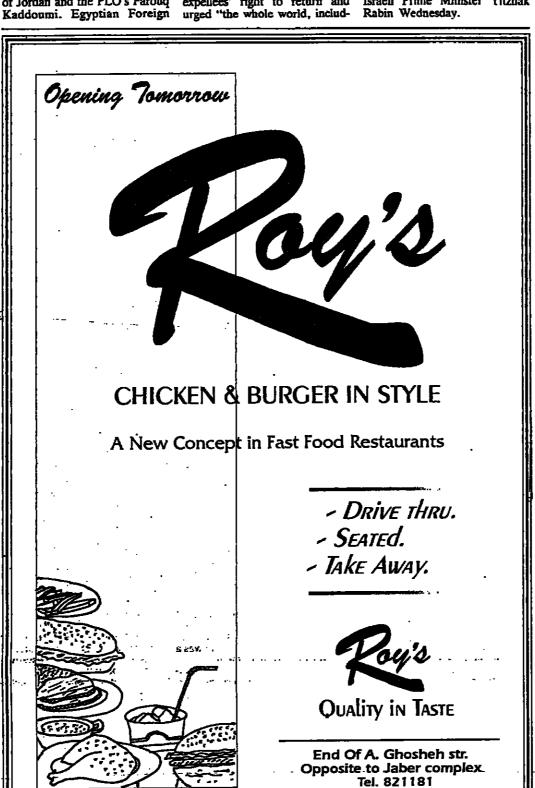
(Continued from page 1)

U.N. Security Council was to discuss the possible fall of Scebrenica after a year under siege, un official source said here. U.N. diplomats say Srebreni-

ca's fall could lead to tightened sanctions against Belgrade. Mr. Stephanopoulos said Secretary of State Warren Christopher had told Russia's deputy foreign affairs minister about U.S. concern about the town during a telephone conversation

Friday. Russia has traditionally

been a Serbian ally.

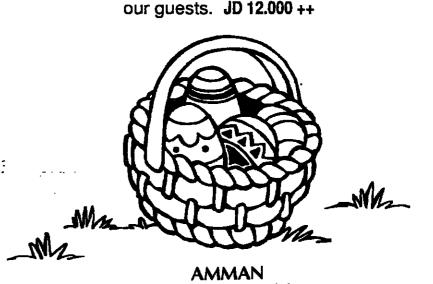


# EASTEЯ Buffet It's Spring time!!

The Easter Bunny is back and now busy finding secret places to hide the colourful eggs which you kids will hunt around the pool area from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Plenty of prizes await the winners. Then the whole family can enjoy

at Al Waha Ballroom Children will be charged half price and the little ones less than one meter tall will be

our Easter Sunday Buffet



# JORDAN MARKET PLACE

#### THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

sent smoke billowing over them. They advanced about 50 metres farther than they reached on a march in which three exiles were wounded by shrapnel four days after being banished without

"We are heading towards Palestine ready to die for our religion." Sheikh Ahmad Bahar from the Gaza Strip told the TEL. 604675 604696 P.O.BOX 7806

road for Friday prayers.
"We carry so arms. Today our weapon is blood," he said between barrages of tank and

AMIN KAWAR&SONS

exiles while they knelt on the

120

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# step.". HISHAM INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Kurdish rebels extend ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 17, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A

problem from the past can hold you back from gaining new ambitions so try to settle it as quickly as possible even though you will most likely need to give up something to achieve unity.

ARTES: (March 21 to April 19)

You are eager to get everything in perfect condition beneath your

own roof so use all possible time to

do this and later avoid a difficult responsibility.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)
The daytime brings you good fortime in whatever pertains to contracts, reports, documents or discussions with businessmen, etc.,
then avoid a scheming person.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)
Think about what you can do to
handle all money matters so you
have more when you need extra
funds and later devise a budget to

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) Take sometime out to

arrange the various condition you like so the future will be more

pleasant for you, then get a good

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can get solid and secure advice during the daytime from those in

the know so contact and consult with them while tonight don't ex-

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider the various options

pect much from a lover.

suit this ambition.

rest tonight.

you have for gaining an important objective and use the one you feel

wisest, then don't take on a prob-

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can accomplish much that is vital to your public image and reputation during the day but consist don't try to push gaining a consist don't try to push gaining a

SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novem-

ber 21) You have many new factors that can help you where advanced knowledge is concerned so be alert to them but tonight steer clear of

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Listen to a good business person who will give you

ideas for more wisdom in your

expenditures, then tonight do not

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Join forces with a good

merchandising person in a mutual-ly beneficial project while later you

find suggestions given that do not work just yet.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Februs

ary 19) A day to look at whatever

activities you have not completed and quickly make them work as

you wish, then avoid an outsider

PISCES: (Feb. 20 to March 20)

Arrange a good time and a roman-tic expression is fine for you during

the daytime so schedule your time wisely, then tonight do what builds

personal desire.

worldly ambitions.

go off on any space.

who disapproves.

up your health.

## Women's Handball Tournament

# Orthodoxi defeat Ahli in 1st round final

By Roufan Nahhas Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first round of the women's handball tournament, organised by the Jordan Handball- Federation, ended Thursday when al Orthodoxi de-feated Al Ahli 19-16.

The match, attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Haya was held at Al Ahli's court.

The first goal of the match was scored by Al Ahli's Manal Banat. three minutes after the start of the game. Teammate Suha Shokeh put up a big effort to score for her team, while Al Orthodoxi mainly depended on Haifa Awwad, Lima Jallad and Rana Lahham.

Rough play had a negative impact on the match, which was marked by a very high number of fouls from both teams.

The first half ended with Al Orthodoxi leading 9-8.
The second half brought more

excitement to the game as Al

Orthodoxi's Lahham scored to give her team the lead at 11-8. Al Ahli tightened their defence and

managed to draw at 11-11.

Lahham however scored again, and Al Orthodoxi took the lead

Al Othodoxi's goalkeeper Lina Jaser saved a last minute goal for Al Ahli and froze their attempts to catch up to win the match

Al Orthodoxi's Coach, Turki Jameel, criticised the referees and said they were unfair and sent out too many players.

Two teams representing the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University originally took part in the championship, which aims at choosing the women's national handball team. The University of Jordan later pulled out

of the competition. The second round begins Saturday when Al Yarmouk play Al Ahli, while Al Orthodoxi play Yarmouk Monday. The tourna-ment ends Wednesday.

## **NBA ROUNDUP**

MILWAUKEE (R) — Danny Ferry scored 18 points and Mike Sanders had 16 to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to their sixth straight win with a 108-93 triumph over the Milwaukee Bucks Thursday. Cleveland held a 26-24 lead with eight minutes left in the second quarter and outscored Milwankee 18-6 the next four minutes and held a 47-40 lead at halftime.

Derek Strong scored 13 points and Todd Day and Frank Brickowski added 11 points apiece for the Bucks, who have dropped three straight and seven of their last nine games.

At Utah, Karl Malone collected 38 points, II rebounds and seven assists and Jeff Malone scored 24 points to lead the Utah Jazz to a 122-117 overtime victory over the Portland Trail Blazers. Utah, winners of two straight, outscored Portland 17-12 in

Cliff Robinson scored 40 points and Terry Porter added 21 for Portland, which had its five-game winning streak snapped.

Karl Malone was 13-of-23 from the floor and John Stockton added 15 points and 12 assists for the Jazz, who evened the season series

with the blazers at 2-2. Porter has scored 89 points in Portland's last four games. At New Jersey, Sherman Douglas hit a running jumper with three-tenths of a second left to lift the Boston Celtics to a 106-105

triumph over New Jersey, handing the Nets' their season-high Reggie Lewis led the Celtics with 29 points and Douglas finished

Derrick Coleman, who had 33 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists, hit a short jumper with 5.5 seconds remaining to give New Jersey a 105-104 lead, before Douglas hit the game-winner.

Rumeal Robinson had 26 points for the Nets, who dropped 2-1/2 games behind Boston for the fourth spot and home-court advantage in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

In Philadelphia, Jeff: Hornacek netted 26 points as the Phi-

ladelphia 76ers downed the Orlando Magic 101-85 to end a three-game losing streak. Clarence Weatherspoon added 21 points and 10 rebounds as the 76ers won for the third time in their last 13 games.

But Philadephia lost Eddie Lee Wilkins for the season when he tore his left Achilles Tendon in the third quarter. Philadelphia held a 47-39 lead at halftime, but outscored Washing-

ton 14-2 to start the second half and take a 61-41 lead. Shaquille O'Neal had 21 points, 11 rebounds and blocked four shots for Orlando, who dropped a game behind Detroit and Indiana for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Donald Royal had 16 points for the Magic.



Orlando's Shaquille O"Neal No. 32 goes up for a backboard layur

At Washington, Rex Chapman and Tom Gugliotta scored 22 points apiece as the Washington Bullets snapped a five-game losing streak with a 110-92 victory over the Miami heat.

Glen Rice scored 23 points and Steve Smith added 20 for Miami which lost its second straight game and dropped 31/2 games behind Indiana and Detroit for the eighth and final playoff spot in the

Doug Overton added 16 points for Washington.

# Zimbabwe winger wins high praise

LYON (AFP) — Coventry coach Bobby Gould believes his multitalented winger Peter Ndlovu can become as good a player as the former Manchester United hero George Best.

Gould, who watched Ndiovu play for Zimbabwe in their goalassociations to draw up plans for less draw agaisnt Egypt here. Thursday, knew he had a bargain when he bought Ndlovu from Bulawayo Highlanders for a mere 10,000 pounds two years ago.

Thursday's draw put Zimbabwe in the final stages of the Africa Zone World Qun, qualifying competition, giving Nellovu a broader stage on which to demonstrate his vast array of ta-

"He has the balance and the ability to dribble the ball like George Best in his prime," Gould said. "Though I'm not saving he is as good as George Best at the moment, he is still young enough to improve."

"He has great meet and a superb ability to ride challenges and knows how to get himself into good positions. And he's very quick," Gould added.

Ndlovu already has around 30 caps as he began his international career at 15. And though Gould is pleased to see him do well for his country, he believes it has affected his league form.

# THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen

"I finally got your sister's baby to sleep. I played her a iullaby on my armpit."

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#### GOREN BRIDGE

**WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ** 

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: •K763 ∇KJ85 ≎73 The bidding has proceeded: East South West North Dbl Pass 1 ± What action do you take?

Q.2-As South, vulnerable, you **≜KQ103 ∇95 ♦QJ782 €103** The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 \( \nabla \) Dbl 4 \( \nabla \) ? What action do you take?

Q.3-Both vulnerable, as South **4**A64 7J852 ≎A93 **4**AK5 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass

What action do you take?

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as **1**7642 ♥86432 ♥J7 +A8 The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
2 \*\* Dbl ? -Weak What action do you take?

Q.5-Neither vulnerable, as South ♥KQJ10876 ♦95 **♦**72 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West ÐЫ What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South AQ63 ♥7 ♦AQ95 **4**J1086 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 **⊕** 1 ♥ Pass Pass Pass What do you bid now?

#### would like to see most top leagues employing professional referees by the turn of the cent A and B games getting muchless. part of football, but they are not Juventus and Milan clash today

FIFA demands professional

tury.
"We can't accept, any more, professional football being refer-

reed by amateurs. We have to

move with the times and we have

to encourage all the national associations," Tognini added, "It will be hard but FIFA has

stopped appealing to national

associations, we now want them

doing something and working on that project. It's a service to the

General Secretary Sepp Blatter

has been campaigning for their

introduction since the poor re-.

fereeing performances in the last World Cup finals three years ago.

"Referees are an important

referees in major leagues

MILAN (Agencies) — AC Milan and Juventus is the big match of the 28th round of the Italian First Division season at San Siro Stadium. But the drama and thrill are elsewhere.

ZURICH (R) - Soccer leagues across the world have been told

by FIFA they must introduce

professional referees following

their successful debut in Italy this

The sport's world governing

body has told all national football

associations with professional

leagues to follow Italy's lead and

asked them to draw up a tran-

sitionary plan.
"FIFA would like all national

associations with professional leagues to follow Italy's lead and have professional referees," spokesman Guido Tognoni said

Friday. He added that FIFA

At Florence, Fiorentina and Napoli — two teams accustomed to finishing among the leaders -

battle to escape relegation. Pre-season favourites for the Itahan title, the Florentine and

YOU'RE ALWAYS

SAYING BEETHOVEN

Was 50 Great...

**Peanuts** 

disappointments this year are struggling at the bottom. Napoli, which won two league

titles during the golden era of Diego Maradona in the late 80s, is 11th in the 18-team first division, only three points ahead of 15th-placed Udinese. The last four teams are relegated to the second division.

Fiorentina, which invested mil-

DID BEETHOVEN EVER

SUB-COMMITTEE?

SERVE ON A

HUH? DID HE?

Neapolitan teams have been big lions to sign Brian Laudrup, Stefan Effenberg and Francesco Baiano, is even worse - 13th place, two points behind Napoli and one out of the relegation

envoys from God. They must

become as professional as players

to bring the game into line with

FIFA's referees committee

gave their full support to Blatter's

plans for the first time Thursday.

training, pay and social security

benefits and envisaged referees

being supervised by the national

Italy introduced semi-

professional referees this season,

with the leading 10 on FIFA's international list receiving up to 2.5 million lire (\$1,600) a match

and another 27 in charge of Serie

They agreed to ask national

society," he said.

Juventus and Milan will play Saturday, as will Parma and Sampdoria, to give Milan, Parma and Juventus and additional day's rest heading into next: week's European Cup games.

> HOW CAN YOU BE CALLED GREAT IF YOU'VE NEVER SERVED ON A SUB-COMMITTEE?

#### **Andy Capp**



#### **Mutt'n'Jeff**



# JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME Unecramble these four Jumbles DADIE BAILUR OUTLAW GROUPS THAT ALWAYS WIND UP STRETCHING THEIR LUCK. BRYCAB Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: RAINY GLEAM EIGHTY RARELY Answer: A one-man band--- A MARRIAGE-RING

## THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray 1 Floats on the air 6 Practice for the 14 Apportion :15 Diminish 16 Musical end 17 Diade 18 Verditheroine 19 God of war 20 Plug for a bunghole 21 Fib 21 Fig 24 Cettic priest 26 Black cuckoo 27 On ship 29 Welcome 33 Fellow from Leeds 34 Set of steps . Over a fence 35 Museum fea 37 Fashion 37 Fashion 38 Spree 39 — time (never) 40 — soda 41 Living room pieces 42 Musical upbeat 43 Brewing vessels 45 "— Restaurant" 46 Rile 47 Secrificial site 48 Pamper 53 Likely 56 He loved an Irish

day"

9 Legible
10 Canadlan region
11 Lady's man

Rose 57 Dedicated

DOWN

4 Craggy

5 Natural

58 Active begi 60 Solitary 61 Planiped phrase 25 Libertine 27 Detensive weapons, to: 29 Lab burners 2 Ramiz — (Albania's ruler) 3 Nonsense

MARS RETTS
MODEST SHARR
AGENT MEAR OSA
SENDOMEURA OBSE
RITUS ENSUE
ROTUS BARANA
ADROS BORRO
MODIUMENTAL VISA
AMET REMIT ADAC
SERF AMAZE TORE
SERTS LOMER ENAS

# Leading industrialists mock Yeltsin's optimism on economy

MOSCOW (R) — Leading Russian businessmen openly mocked Mr. Volsky I nonny was showing signs of im- carried out.

Many of the 4,000 delegates at sia is unacceptable," he said to a day-long meeting of the Russian loud applause, drawing a parallel Union of Entrepreneurs and In- with the fast, all-out attack dustrialists burst out laughing as Mr. Yeltsin reeled off figures for start of World War II.

"If the rate of inflation was 27 per cent in January and 25 per cent in February, then in March..." he broke off as laughter and cat-calls echoed through d to pay for the the opulent white marble Krem-

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in Palace of Congresses.
"I don't understand," said a bemused Yeltsin, turning to the podium for explanation.

The Russian leader is seeking support in the nationwide vote of confidence in his presidency and hopes to persuade people that the painful economic reforms laun-ched in January 1992 are finally starting to bear fruit.

But he faces resistance from

industrialists who insist inflation is soaring as fast as ever and say the pace of change has pushed many firms to the verge of bank-

Union Chairman Arkady Volsky admonished the delegates, saying although he understood they doubted the inflation figures they should behave in a more

Mr. Volsky later took the President Boris Yeltsin, who is podium and delivered an hourcampaigning for a referendum on long speech, most of it attacking April 25, when he told them the reforms and especially the Friday that the crisis-racked eco-speed at which they had been

> "Economic blitzkrieg for Rusadopted by German armies at the

> Mr. Volsky, a long-time proponent of a more gradual approach to reforms, urged the government to concentrate on fighting inflation and sort out its tax policy.

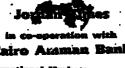
> He insisted the state had a role to play and scorned those who he said panicked at the very mention of state control.

"This kind of behaviour is forgivable in a first-year cookery student but should not be allowed among professionals," he said to more applause.

He was especially critical of the government's attempts to convert defence plant to civilian production, which he said were ham-fisted and could harm Russia's ability to defend itself.

But he offered some consolation to Mr. Yeltsin by saying the picture was not all gloomy. And he attacked the conservative parhament. Mr. Yeltsin's opponent. in the current power struggle, for not passing economic reform laws

**Financial** Markets



Currency	New York Clase Date 14/4/1993	Takyo Clase Data 15/4/1993
Sterling Pound	1.5525	1.5453
Deutsche Mark	1.5921	1.5995
Swiss Franc	1.4583	1:4640
French Franc	5.3885	5.4728 **
Japanese Yen	113.78	113.43
European Curreny Unit	1.2218 -	1.2175 **
USD Per STG		<del></del>

Eurocurrency Interest Estati		Dete: 15/4/1993		
Ситенсу	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U:S. Dollar	3.06	3.12	3.15	3.31
Sterling Pound	5.75	5.68	5.68	5.68
Deutsche Mark	8.18	7.87	7.43	6.81
Swiss Franc	5.00	4.87	4.62	4.37
French Franc	8.87	8.81	8.35	7.75
Japanese Yen	3.21	3.21	3,25	3.31
European Corrency Unit	9.06	8.87	8.37	7.75

	Dat	Date: 15/4/1993	
Ситевсу .	Bid :	Offer	
U.S. Dellar	0.6860	0.6880	
Sterling Pound	1.0597	1.0650	
Deutsche Mark	0.4286	0.4307	
Swiss Franc	0.4682	0.4705	
French Franc	0_1268	0.1274	
Japanest Yen*	0_6011	0.6041	
Dutch Guilder	0.3815	0.3834	
Swedish Krona	0.0919	0.0924	
Italian Lira*	0.0442	0_0444	
Belgian Franc	0.02092	0.02102	

Other Currencles	Da	Date: 15/4/1993		
Ситтепсу	Bid	Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1_8010	1.8400		
Lebanese Lira*	0.03867	0.04047		
Saudi Riyal	0_1826	0.1841		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2800		
Qatari Riyal	0.1859	0_1880		
Egyptian Peund	0_1950	0.2180		
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.8400		
UAE Dirham	0.1854	0.1880		
Greek Drachma*	0.31395	0.34395		
Cypriot Pound	1.4255	1.4555		

#### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

\$1.5360/70

\$337.10/337.40

1.2593/98 1.6065/75 U.S. \$1.000 costs 1.8050/60 1.4670/80 32.98/33.02 5,4300/50 1537/1540 112.70/75 7,4750/850 6.8025/125 6.1700/800

One sterling

One ounce of gold

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese ven Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

# Gulf turning into busy world gold trade market

DUBAI (R) — Gold trade is booming in the Gulf Arab region which is rapidly becoming one of the busiest world markets for bullion and jewellery imports and reexports.

Traders and experts say Dubai now ranks as the fifth most important centre for gold trade in the world and Saudi Arabia is quickly catching up.

Dubai's gold imports rose 72 per cent in 1992, an all time record for the emirate, to 284 tonnes from 165 tonnes in 1991, according to World Gold Council Most of it was reexported

either as bullion or jewellery. In Saudi Arabia gold imports rose to 135 tonnes in 1992 from an estimated 120 tonnes in 1991. The traders say the growth rate, World Gold Council (WGC),

MANS REME JORGAN ENTICEAL RANG CATEGO ARREAD RANG EMBA OF JORGAN MINDLE EAST INVESTIGE TRUSTERIAL DEVELOPMENT THE BOURLES BANK JORGAN INVESTIGE JORGAN INVESTIGE JORGAN ELEMANT BANK JORGAN SELANTE BANK JORGAN BALK FOR RATING

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SPINING & MINTERS
SAFIA DEDUCTATES
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES

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in the gold trade in the Gulf was between 10 and 15 per cent. They attribute that to good legislation, low cost of labour,

minimal insurance cost and cus-They say that a current dip in world gold prices and the easing of controls on gold imports in some countries like India and

Pakistan were largely behind the boom in the Gulf's gold trade. None of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries imposes any tax on gold bullion. Saudi Arabia levies a 12 per cent tax on jewellery imports, the United Arab Emirates one per cent, Kuwait four per cent and

Bahrain 10 per cent. Andre Bisang, Middle East director of the Geneva-based

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277,827 131.298 131.500 121.500
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said the region is witnessing a rapid evolution in gold trade.

"In the long term demand in the Gulf...is going to grow and there is a very clear evolution in the market," he said.

He said Saudi Arabia is emerging as a competitive world centre for gold trade and manufacturing of jewellery while Dubai, one of the United Arab Emirates, was a major world market for reex-

"I think there is a very interesting development in Saudi Arabia which is the largest consuming market in the Gulf," he pointed

"The interesting part is that the country has imposed 12 per cent custom duty on gold jewellery which means in a market so price sensitive it is nearly impossible

Lebanon

urges

Turkey

to import gold jewellery and sell it," Mr. Bisang said.

"So what has happened in recent years is that around Riyadh and Jeddah new, well organised and modern jewellery factories are being built up and I can see that in the future Saudi Arabia will be an exporter of gold jewellery," he added.

"It is an important consuming market and at the same time it is going to be world competitive in manufacturing gold jewellery,' he elaborated.

There are an estimated 31 workshops and some 3,000 jewel-

lery shops in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Bisang said Dubai's prominence was due to its lucrative reexport market to the region and the subcontinent.

"Dubai is still growing and the

Mr. Bisang said Kuwait was showing signs of going back to the trade it had before it was invaded

by Iraq in August 1990. But consumption was still low because the emirate's estimated population of about two million off restrictions on gold imports. people went down by more than 30 per cent after it was liberated

Before the war Kuwait's market consumed 30 tonnes of gold which Mr. Bisang said was a high figure considering the emirate's popula- gold.

Traders say that Oman, Qatar and Bahrain still have a long way

region's trade. Mr. Bisang said Saudi Arabia year.

reason it has become famous is was producing less than 10 tonnes the big reexport market," he of gold a year from its gold mines, ail consumed locally.

"Many people are saying that Saudis has big potential but we

don't know yet," he added. Mr. Bisang expected the gold trade to boom even more in Dubai with more countries easing

Traders say Indian expatriates were still exporting gold from Dubai and other countries through unofficial channels although the government in March allowed them to bring in

The WGC has opened an office in Saudi Arabia to monitor the booming gold trade there and to go before they can figure in the traders estimate the market to have been worth \$1.4 billion last

# ADB forecasts modest '93 world economic growth

to reduce trade deficit BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon has

urged Turkey to plan how to reduce Beirut's huge trade deficit with Ankara and to invest in reconstruction after 15 years of civil war. Lebanese Economy and Trade Minister Hagop Demourijian told

non had set its sights on regaining its pre-war position as a major trade and financial centre.

"I adamantly believe in expanding the volume of trade between Lebanon and Turkey but on a more equitable basis," said

delegation. "I therefore call upon the two sides... to agree on the basic elements of a plan to manage the imbalance so Lebanon's trade deficit with Turkey may be reduced

Turkey's exports to Lebanon.

Turkish State Minister Mehmet Batalli, who heads the team which includes about 45 businessmen, said Turkey wanted more trade and its contractors to play a major role in rebuilding Leba-DON.

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bear only modest fruit this year but economic growth will gather pace in 1994, the Asian Develop-ment Bank (ADB) said Friday.

cast real gross national product (GNP), spearheaded by booming Asia, would grow worldwide by 1.5 per cent in 1993, accelerating to a more robust 3.5 per cent in

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a Turkish delegation that Leba-

Mr. Demourijian at the start of five days of talks with the Turkish

in relative if not absolute terms,"

mainly livestock, iron and steel bars and grain, were worth \$100 million last year, against imports of \$5 million, Turkish treasury figures show.

The Manila-based bank fore-

.3 per cent in 1994.

"While the situation in North America should improve somewhat, the European economies will remain weak, particularly in 1993," it warned in its annual development outlook. end of 1994, while jobless queues

Overall figures hid huge disparities between regions, the bank warned, and it highlighted a number of potential threats to the fragile recovery of industrialised Large deficits, the failure to

complete world trade talks, insufficient investment and political and economic uncertainty in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union all posed dangers.

The ADB report, written before the world's seven biggest economies offered Russia \$43.4 billion in aid this week, warned that continued deterioration in the former Soviet Bloc. could have global ramifications.

Among the major economies, Germany remained worst-hit as it struggled to deal with the cost of reunification and consequent rise in indirect taxes, tight monetary policy and high real interest rates.

The ADB forecast negligible German growth this year as the western part of the country re-

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nomy should pick up to 2.7 per cent growth in 1994.

"In the United States, the recovery is beginning to gather strength, led by private domestic investment, consumer durable goods spending and an increase in

housing starts," it said.
Predicting U.S. growth of 3.2 per cent in 1993, up from 2.1 in 1992 and a negative 1.2 in 1991, year. the 52-member bank forecast a flattening of the growth curve at

Excess industrial capacity and a slack labour market would hold inflation in check this year, but the bank cautioned that price rises could accelerate towards the

would shorten only slowly. Recovery in Japan, languishing in its worst slowdown since the 1973 oil shock, hinged on a revival of consumption, housing demand and the effectiveness of

government stimulus. "Business investment is expected to remain weak during 1993 in light of poor corporate profits and as balance sheet adjustments continue in the wake of lower equity and real estate

prices," it said. An overhang of consumer debt, which expanded rapidly during the 1980s, was likely to

Prinzessin

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ADB forecast 2.1 per cent growth in GNP in 1993, up from 1.5 per cent in 1992, and 2.5 per cent cent

Although the British and Australian economies would improve in 1993, growth in the developed market economies was likely to remain below two per cent in 1993, rising to 2.7 next

The stars of the world economy remained in Asia, with China the brightest. China's economic boom drove growth rates to 12.8 per cent in 1992, up from 7.5 the

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# Bosnia Muslim defenders offer **Srebrenic surrender to Serbs**

nian Serbs appeared poised to take Srebrenica Friday after a year-long siege as exhausted Muslim defenders began negotiating the enclave's surrender.

In Geneva, the United Nations said it was preparing to evacuate up to 30,000 refugees from Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia, if it fell to Serb forces.

"The situation is very, very messy. It is very bad for us now." a Bosnian army source told Reuters. "It is a question of hours when Srebrenica will fall."

He said negotiations were under way and centred on Srebrenica's surrender.

Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said in Geneva the UNHCR had 50 trucks ready to pick up refugees around Srebrenica if Serb forces

captured it.

"The very buildings they are sheltering in are coming under attack now," said Tony Land, who heads UNHCR operations in Sarajevo, "It's horrific to contemplate that civilians may be caught in the middle of a battlefield. It's a rapidly changing situation, changing from hour to

He said the UNHCR's special envoy to former Yugoslavia, Jose Maria Mendiluce, was in tough with the Bosnian and Serb commands to arrange conditions for a mass evacuation.

On Thursday night, Serbs encircling Srebrenica launched an

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian

President Boris Yeltsin Faday

travelled to the Belarus capital of

Minsk for a one-day summit of

the Commonwealth of Indepen-

dent States called to discuss the

Mr. Yeltsin was also expected

to gather support from leaders of

former Soviet republics ahead of

the April 25 referendum on his

The summit was called last

month by Mr. Yeitsin and

Kazakhstan President Nursultan

fate of the shaky alliance.

multiple-rocket launchers and mortars. Radio operators said it had pushed the Muslim defenders to within two kilometres of the town in intense fighting that claimed heavy casualties.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, fierce battles broke out between nominally allied Croats and Muslims in the centre of the republic, and the Bosnian Serb army said at least two brigades of Muslim troops attacked Serb positions in eastern

The Muslim-led Bosnian gov-ernment has warned that a Bosnian peace plan, drawn up by international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, would collapse if the Serbs captured Srebrenica.

Despite international pressure, the Bosnian Serbs have not signed the U.N.-borkered plan, which has been endorsed by their Muslim and Croat adversaries, to end a year of civil war.

Although U.N. peacekeepers said Srebrenica itself had not been shelled since Thursday night, they said its situation was clearly worsening.

"The Serbs are advancing towards the town. The town situation is definitely deteriorating quite a bit," Captain Bill Karaktin, U.N. Protection Force (UNP-ROFOR) deputy spokesman in Sarajevo, told Reuters.

"We are trying to ensure there will be no atrocities," he said. He said General Philippe board after local leaders blo Morillon, the commander of UN- a mass refugee evacuation.

Nazarbayev who maintained that

closer CIS ties would help all

former Soviet republics overcome

Seven former Soviet republics

have signed the CIS charter at the

last summit meeting in Minsk on

Jan. 22: Russia, Kazakhstan, Be-

larus, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan

The news agency quoted Kazakhstan President Nursultan

Nazarbayev as saying that those

leaders opposed to the CIS

should leave, a direct reference to

Ukraine which views the club as

the economic crisis.

and Armenia.

**WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF** 

ROME (AFP) - Some 47 million Italian voters will head to the

polls Sunday and Monday to decide the fate of eight political reform referendums which, if adopted, are likely to transform the

country's political landscape. The referendum vote will close

Monday at 1200 GMT and is open to any citizen more than 18

years old. It is being held amid an explosive corruption scandal

that has implicated numerous top politicians and businessmen.

Recent opinion polls indicate that voters, reflecting a profound

popular desire for change, will likely aprove all eight questions

that include the introduction of a majority voting system for the upper house of parliament and the abolition of public funding of

political parties. The current referendums represent the first time

Italians have to decide on eight questions at once. If approved, the referendums will then be adopted into law.

ISLAMABAD (R) - Pakistan's chief of army staff cancelled a

visit next week to the United States amid a mounting political

crisis that could topple the government of reformist Prime

Minister Nawaz Sharif, officials said Friday. "The visit will take

place at a more congenial time," an army spokesman said by

telephone. General Abdul Waheed, appointed to the powerful

post of chief of army staff after the death of his predecessor in

January, had been due to pay a 10-day visit to the United States

starting Monday. Gen. Waheed earlier this week postponed a

scheduled visit to France that had been due to begin last

Thursday. Gen. Waheed's last-minute cancellations were promp-

ted by the political crisis at home, diplomats said. His trip was scheduled at a crucial time in U.S.-Pakistan ties after Washington

in January added Pakistan to a watch list of countries allegedly

LAGOS (R) - Most of Nigeria's defence headquarters in central

Lagos was a charred wreck Friday after fire fanned by wind swept

through the 25-storey building. Army spokesman Colonel Fred Chijuka said nobody was injured in the fire and two people

trapped on an upper floor had been rescued. "Nobody was

injured, not one. Two were trapped on the 18th floor but we got

them out," he said. Fire-fighters struggled to extinguish remnants of the blaze 14 hours after it started. "This is a national disaster,"

a distraught army officer told reporters outside the building

cordoned off by armed soldiers as acrid smoke billowed over

Nigeria's biggest city. By morning, most of the crackling flames

that had engulfed the top 20 floors had gone, leaving much of the building's green and white facade blackened and charred.

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Indian army troops attacked by Muslim

militants retaliated with gunfire in two Kashmir towns, killing at

least six civilians, as an upsurge of violence left 13 others dead

eisewhere in the troubled valley. Three civilians were killed and

nine injured late Thursday in shooting by troops targeted by

grenade attacks by militants in Badgam, central Kashmir, the

Press Frust of India (PTI) reported Friday. Three civilians and a

militant were killed and two injured in a similar incident in

Sopore, north Kashmir, the agency said. The 13 other victims of

violence Thursday evening and Friday included nine suspected

Muslim militants killed in two gun battles with paramilitary forces, it said. The remaining four were civilians killed by

LONDON (AP) - Amnesty International said Friday that

torture is systematic in China and far more widespread than 10

years ago despite claims by the government that it has taken

effective measures to stop it. "The information received by Amnesty International in recent years suggests that torture has become endemic in many places of detention," it said in a report.

'Torture is widespread in China'

New Kashmir violence claims 19 lives

Fire ravages Nigeria's defence HQ

Pakistan army chief cancels U.S. visit

Italians to vote in reform referendums

the early morning contacting the Serb leadership and the army, command in Pale to "impress upon them the gravity of the situation and to say for God's sake control your commanders on

the ground. Gen. Morillon also tried contacting Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic during the night to get him to restrain his forces, initiate a ceasefire and allow th ewounded to be evacuated, he said. "That's priority for Morillon."

The Serbs have been putting pressure on the enclave; whose desperate plight was highlighted by Gen. Morillon's decision last month to set up his headquarters there to break the siege.

But neither this nor stern warnings by the United States worked as the Serbs stepped up artillery barrages that killed more than 60 people in Srebrenica this week, stirring international condemnation and reviving calls for foreign military intervention.

The assault prompted fears of a major humanitarian disaster and a halt to peace negotiations as the U.S. State Department released a report recommending the creation of havens for endangering communities in Bosnia such as Srebrenica.

an instrument used by Russia to

Moldovan President Mircea

Snegur meanwhile said that he

hoped the meeting would deter-

mine the framework for future

CIS cooperation once and for all.

"We cannot overcome the situation all by ourselves," Mr. Snegur, quoted by ITAR-TASS

Armenian President Levon

Ter-Petrosyan added that the

summit should help the CIS be-

come an efficient forum, "a goal it has not yet achieved."

Soviet

coup trial

suspended

indefinitely

MOSCOW (AP) - The trial of

the alleged masterminds of the August 1991 coup was suspended

indefinitely Friday because one of

The presiding judge, Maj.-

Gen. Anatoly Ukolov, said the

court would decide when to re-

sume the trial after it received a

medical report on Alexander

Tizyakov, 67, who was rushed

from the courtroom with heart

trouble shortly after the trial be-

gan Wednesday. Mr. Tizyakov is in a military

hospital in Moscow, his co-

defendants have argued that the

trial cannot proceed without him.

The medical report will deter-

mine whether he is truly too ill to

A doctor who was in the cour-

troom gave an unofficial opinion

that Mr. Tizyakov could be ill for

Before the coup, Mr. Tizyakov

headed an association of state

factories in what was then the

Soviet Union and was a member of the self-proclaimed "State

Committee For the State of

Emergency" that seized power

from Mikhail Gorbachev on Aug.

some of the most powerful men of the old regime: Former KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, De-

fence Minister Dmitry Yazov, Soviet parliament leader Anatoly

Lukyanov, and Vice President

They are accused of placing

Mikhail Gorbachev under house

arrest and declaring emergency

rule in an attempt to preserve the

Soviet Union under hardline

Communist rule. Ironically, the

failed coup accelerated the coun-

If the defendants are found

guilty, they could face the death

penalty. If they are acquitted, the

small but vociferous minority of

loval Communists left in Russia

As he entered the courthouse

Friday, Mr. Yanayev called the

proceedings a "political trial"

against President Boris Yeltsin's

opponents. "History will vindi-

A crowd of about 30 die-hard

Communists, mainly elderly peo-

ple, cheered the defendants out-

side the heavily-guarded court-

house in central Moscow. Some

of the protesters sang revolution-

Gennady Yanayev.

try's breakup.

will take heart.

cate us," he said.

The other defendants include

defend himself.

15 to 20 days.

18-21, 1991.

the 12 defendants is ill.

promote its own interests.

Hours before what appears to have been the final assault, a U.N. aid convoy left Srebrenica with only five elderly women on board after local leaders blocked

WEst to start selective bombing of roads and bridges in Bosnia to stop supplies reaching rebel Serb

Lord Owen said ni television interview: "If the Serbian government in Belgrade will not cut off-those supplies, then we should interdict from the air and cut them off ourselves.

Asked whether he was calling for bombing, Lord Owen replied: Yes, selective bombing to stop supplies coming through which are fuelling this war. Lord Owen said the Serbs had

to be brought face to face with reality and forced to sign a peace plan that he drew up with fellow peace envoy Cyrus Vance. "I think the world community will now have to consider taking

direct action to impose sanctions and that is by far the most effec-tive measure," Lord Owen said. "The problem is whether or not we can get the Russians to

accept this action," said Lord Owen. "It would require a general U.N. resolution to use necessary measures to cut off supplies that are fuelling the war."

The United Nations expected

to hold an emergency session Friday if Srebrenica fell, Council President Jamsheed Marker said.

Mr. Marker, the ambassador of Pakistan, also admitted the Council was delaying a vote on tougher sanctions against Serbia until April 26 — A Russian demand - but said it would hold an open debate on the Bosnia crisis next week.

Armenia:

Turkey is

arms, troops

YEREVAN (AFP) — Turkey is

shipping arms and troops to

Azerbaijan for use in its war

against Armenian forces, a

spokesman for the Armenian De-

fence Ministry said here Friday.

lian, said 30 military vehicles

carrying arms and soldiers had

begun crossing the border each

baijani enclave of Nakhichevan.

From there they were being transported to the western Azer-

troops which are then used

against Armenia," he stated.

Mr. Dulian said Armenia re-

'appropriate measures" to stop

the flow of military aid from

Turkey to Azerbaijan.
On Thursday, the Turkish Foreign Ministry indicated for the first time that Turkey was sup-

plying military aid to Azerbaijan, but Turkish President Turgut

Ozal, who just made a three-day

visit to Baku, downplayed the

The spokesman, Armen Du-

sending

to Azeris

# Mandela gets death threats — ANC F.W. De Klerk and Mandela.

Death threats have been made against Nelson Mandela since the assassination of South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani, the African National Congress (ANC) said Friday.
"Mr. Mandela has been receiv-

RAMPAGE IN JAKARTA: Two Indonesian

officials check the debris of a bornt car outside a

stadium south of Jakarta where U.S. heavy metal

band Metallica gave concert. Hundreds of fans

ing death threats, but I cannot go into details for security reasons," ANC spokesman Carl Niehans told Reuters.

Asked if other ANC leaders had been threatened since Mr. Hani's murder Saturday, Mr. Nichaus said: "A wise range of people have been receiving death threats since Saturday. We are taking them seriously.'

A pro-government newspaper reported earlier this week that Mr. Mandela and his entourage were followed home by a "suspicious-looking vehicle" last Sunday.

The Citizen newspaper said the

car, with a Namibian registration plate, was spotted again near Mr. Mandela's home Monday but by the time police arrived it had

Mr. Niehaus said the ANC's policy-making National Execu-

who is the ANC's president, to meet urgently to discuss the wave of violence sparked by Hani's murder. At least 26 people have been killed in the unrest. The ANC has condemned the

rioting and violence which erupted throughout South Africa during Wednesday's memorial marches for Mr. Hani, who was idolised by millions of blacks.

The man accused of killing him, right-wing Polish immigrant Janusz Walus, has been remanded in custody. Mr. Hani's name and that of Mandela were among nine on an apparent hit-list found by police in Mr. Walus' house. Among others named were

Communist Party Chairman Joe Slovo, Foreign Minister Pik Botha, Judge Richard Goldstone and Ken Owen, the outspoken editor of South Africa's Sunday Times newspaper. Mr. Hani will be buried Mon-

day which the ANC has declared a national day of mourning. It has not, however, called for a mass

ANC Information Director

attend the funeral and asked husinesses to close as a mark of The government said emergen-

who could not enter the stadium went on a

rampage burning several cars and foodstalls, and

threw stones at security personnel (AFP photo)

cy measures would be declared in at least 19 areas around Johannesburg's industrial heartland to curb the wave of unrest since Mr. Hani's slaying.
Police will be given powers to

arrest people without a warrant, detain without trial and impose curfews, police spokesman Chris Maritz said.

The ANC has dismissed the measures as a "dispaly of insensi-

Two marches were planned for Saturday in Johannesburg and the capital Pretoria and the two cities were expected to come to a standstill.

The ANC has promised to beef up its marshalling at the marches to prevent a repeat of Wednes-day's violence which it blamed on 'criminal elements."

The government Thursday challenged the ANC to halt the violence and said all parties should work rapidly towards setting a date for South Africa's first

# Khmer Rouge leader flays U.N. force

BANGKOK (AFP) — The leader of the radical Khmer Rouge launched a scathing attack Friday on the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cambodia, saying that his delegation had withdrawn from Phnom Penh because U.N.-organised elections

Khieu Samphan's tirade against the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was broadcast over the Marxist guerrilla faction's radio moni-

completely destroying the Party of Democratic Kampuchea,' Khieu Samphan said, referring to the Marxist guerrilla faction's for-

"This is because it will be held under circumstances where thousands and thousands of different categories of Vietnamese are present throughout Kampuchea

strongest guerrilla force to fight Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government, has constantly in-

of farming in Rusia.

Cambodia in late 1989 as announced by Hanoi.

has also been accused of slaying and scores of ethnic Vietnamese civilians in recent weeks in Cam-

tion pulled out abruptly Tuesday from the Cambodian capital where he and Khmer Rouge Military Commander Son Sen had been taking part as their group's representatives in meetings of Cambodia's reconciliation body, the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Samphan failed to disclose his group's immediate plans. He. however, repeated an earlier statement that its pullout from Phnom Penh was "temporary."

ernment against them.

# tive Committee had rejected a Pallo Jordan urged employers to

have not completely pulled out of against the Phnom Penh "pup-

next month in Cambodia would be "unfair".

baijani city of Gyandzha to join Azerbaijani units fighting in and around the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, Mr. Dulian said. tored here.
"UNTAC's election is aimed at "Armenia cannot remain indifferent to violations of its airspace for the transport of arms and

mal name. served the right to take

(Cambodia)," he said.

The Khmer Rouge, the sisted that Vietnamese troops

If defeated in the nationwide

ballot, Mr. Yeltsin could be severely

weakened and even forced from

office, leaving Mr. Rutskoi in

charge.

Mr. Rutskoi, a former proreform Communist who defended

the presidential headquarters

during the attempted hardline

coup in 1991, has become an opponent of Mr. Yeltsin and bas

repeatedly tried to undercut his

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Rutskoi's

political and economic reforms.

terms expire in 1996, but earlier

elections are possible if voters support that idea in the referen-

dum. Mr. Rutskoi cannot be fired

by Mr. Yeltsin.

pet" leadership, saying it was a The hardline guerrilla faction

at least four U.N. peacekeepers Khieu Samphan and his delega-

The move has prompted fears that the Khmer Rouge, which had already announced that it would boycott the May 23-27 polling, was planning to disrupt the In his radio speech, Mr. Khieu

Khieu Samphan also reiterated usual Khmer Rouge charges here Friday.

'Hanoi satellite regime" formed with "traitors to the country." He pointed out to recent "thre-

atening" statements by UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi warning the Khmer Rouge that they were on the brink of becoming outlaws and by Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen urging UNTAC to arrest him for genocide crimes. Thai officials have said that

Tuesday's withdrawal from Phnom Penh of the Khmer Rouge delegation had been prompted by arrest warrants issued by the Phnom Penh gov-This was an apparent re-

ference to a statement the day before by a Phnom Penh spokesman that government lawyers were preparing an arrest warrant for Khieu Samphan in line with Mr. Hun Sen's call.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Fore-ign Minister Ali Alatas is seeking a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to discuss the troubled peace process in Cambodia, the Kompas daily said

#### Yeltsin moves against Rutskoi; vows vote change politicians" for the abysmal state

MOSCOW (AP) — Anxious about his grip on power, Boris Yeltsin said he would change the rules of Russia's leadership referendum in his favour and strip his rebellious vice president of some influence and privileges.

The Russians Congress, trying to reduce Yeltsin's chance of winning an April 25 vote of confidence in his power and policies, has ordered that a majority of the 106 million registered voters is necessary to win.

That would be difficult for Mr.

Yeltsin. When he was elected president in June 1991, he won with more than 60 per cent of the votes cast — but that was only about 43 per cent of eligible voters.

Mr. Yeltsin said Thursday that he would issue a decree after April 20 easing the number of votes needed to win. He did not but Mr. Yeltsin indicated he would ignore its ruling. The president also said he

would take away control over agricultural from Vice President paper Prayda, Mr. Rutskoi Alexander Rutskoi, his one-time avoided criticising Mr. Yeltsin ally. A Rutskoi aide said the vice president also would lose his special car, personal doctor and some of his bodyguards.

The moves by Mr. Yeltsin could be an attempt to drive Mr. Rutskoi from office. Mr. Rutskoi did not respond directly to Mr. Yeltsin's statement, but last month he said he would not beforced to resign. In a newspaper article, Mr.

At a meeting with representatives of democratic groups, Mr. Yeltsin said he would take the agriculture portfolio away from Mr. Rutskoi before the end of the week, the Interfax News Agency

directly. Instead, he blamed the pricing, credit, tax and investment policies of the government for putting farming "in the humiliating position of being bank-

The article was a veritable report card - filled with F's - on Russia's agricultural system.

Mr. Rutskoi, who claimed his own reform ideas were ignored. said 40 per cent to 60 per cent of Rutskoi blamed "demagogic farm produce is lost during har-

vesting, drying and storage — twice as much food than is imported. Modern farm equipment is in short supply, state construc-tion 130 food factories was halted last year and output of meat, cheese and cereals declined more than 20 per cent, he said. Mr. Yeltsin gave Mr. Rutskoi

perhaps to discredit him. Kremlin leaders have a tradition of naming rivals to that job. The moves against Mr. Rutskoi came while Mr. Yeltsin cam-

sian agriculture in February 1992,

paigned intensively for support in his power struggle with hardline lawmakers. Mr. Yeltsin elevated a moderate ally, Oleg Lobov, to first deputy prime minister. And he

signed a decree increasing government aid to people suffering from the effects of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986. The president got a boost from the seven wealthiest industrial

nations, which approved a new \$28.4 billion aid package to help Russia's economic reforms. The group of seven made clear they were acting in hopes of improving Mr. Yeltsin's standing in Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin, declaring himself "a nationalist of Russia", has taken a hardline approach on the deployment of Russian troops stationed in other former Soviet

Troops in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania Russian army personnel.

would not be withdrawn "until the rights of Russian-speaking communities are guaranteed' while Russian Armed Forces in the western Georgian Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia will not be withdrawn until Georgia withdraws its own troops", he told a public meeting the tough job of managing Rushere Thursday.

> "I am a nationalist of Russia. I am for strong power and integration into the world community," the Interfax News Agency

reported him as saying.

Moscow has agreed to withdraw its troops from Lithuania by the end of August 1993, but Latvia and Estonia have yet to receive any firm undertaking on the removal of the last remaining troops of the former Red Army from their territory.

Georgia has accused the Russia army of aiding Abkhazian separatists in its Western region bordering the Black Sea, a charge Moscow has behind.

"For every shell fired at our troops we will reply with two shells," Mr. Yeltsin said. Similar threats of reprisals have

been made by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Relations between Moscow and Tbilisi have plummeted over the conflict in Abkhazia, whose capital Sukhumi has come under zerial bombardment, with dozens of casualties. Tbilisi has charged that the planes are piloted by

#### Oxford debates - If you've got it, should you flaunt it?

LONDON (R) - Russia's Miss World is to help Oxford University's scholars resolve an ancient problem - should a woman who has got it, flaunt it? Julia Kurochkina will join former supermodel Jerry Hall to debate beauty and brains at the ancient university in June. "The motion will be about exploitation of your assets brains, brawn and beauty," Katherine Wade, president of the university's Union Student Body, 2 told Today newspaper Friday, the debate is on June 17. Ms. Kurochkina, 18, won her title la to December when Ms. Hall, married to rock singer Mick Jagger, was one of the judges. The first Russian to become Miss World, Ms. Kurochkina is a student at the Moscow Economics Institute. Ms. Hall will put the case for making the most of beauty, supported by Miss World. Feminist writer Yvonne Roberts will speak against the resolution.

#### 'Dracula' terrorises Indonesian village

JAKARTA (R) - At least 50 families in a West Java village are living in fear of a Dracula-like visitation after finding blood-stained marks on their doors, Indonesia's daily Jayakarta newspaper reported Friday. No fange have yet sunk into anyone's neck in the village of Cimone and police say the blood comes from chickens. The police are looking for three men but suspect them of being pranksters rather than visitors from the other side of the

#### Drunk driving artist condemned to paint for road safety

AVIGNON, France (AFP) - A French judge has wiped the slate clean for an artist sentenced on a drunk driving charge after the painter presented the court with a canvas representing road safety, legal sources said. François Welcomme, 48, had been slapped with a stiff fine and a suspended prison sentence and had his driver's license revoked two months ago after his arrest on New Year's Day for driving with 1.56 grammes of alcohol in his blood. The judge said, however, that he would scrap the sentence if Welcomme presented the local hearts quarters of the Road Safety Department with a painting. "I recalled that some artists seen inspiration in alcohol," the judge explained, "and I decided to give the painter a chance.'

#### Top German chef ordered to shut restaurant

MUNICH (R) - One of Germany's top chefs received a twoyear suspended jail sentence and was ordered to close his celebrated restaurant after being found guilty of buying cocaine, regional officials said. Despite Munich's colinary scene rallying to his support, Eckart Witzigmann lost the licence for his Aubergine Restaurant - one of only three in Germany to be \_ awarded three Michelin Stars for outstanding cuisine. Around 90 Munich chefs ran a haif-page. advertisement in a local newspap er to support Mr. Witzigmann when he went on trial last month.

#### Belgian city battles rat invasion BRUSSELS (R) - The Belgian

city of Charleroi is battling a plague of rats which invaded the streets after being flushed from the sewers by major building works. The city's environment chief Lucien Cariat said the room dents emerged near Charleroi's main railway station after old concrete walls were knocked down during work to build a bridge across the River Sambre. He said hundreds of rats were infesting the streets each evening, attracted by food thrown for plant geons. Charleroi had a similar rat? problem 15 years ago, he added.

#### Actress who played 🏂 Diana bans nude pictures

LONDON (R) — The actress who played Princess Diana in a movie about her marriage to the heir to Britain's throne, Prince -Charles, said she had banned nude publicity pictures of herself to avoid royal embarrassment Serena Scott Thomas blocked the publication of stills from a television film in which she appears at a prostitute wearing nothing but a hat. She made the movie before winning the star role in the film of the book Diana; Her True Story.

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Yeltsin travels to Minsk for CIS summit

presidency and on his reform